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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
12 October 2009—22 October 2009

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12 October 2009

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 12 October 2009

TREASURY

Delegated Legislation (Counter-terrorism)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The Government have today laid before the House a statutory instrument under the Counter-terrorism Act 2008 containing a direction requiring the UK financial services sector to cease all business with the Iranian Bank Mellat and the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines. This means that from today, financial and credit institutions will no longer be able to enter into new transactions or business relationships with these entities nor to continue with existing transactions or business relationships unless they are licensed by HM Treasury. Consistent with the commitment provided to the House during the passage of the Act, I would like to set out the reasons behind our decision.

The Treasury is satisfied, as required by the Act, that activity in Iran that facilitates the development or production of nuclear weapons poses a significant risk to the national interests of the UK. Iran continues to fail to meet its international obligations. Most notably, its nuclear programme presents an immediate challenge to the global non-proliferation regime. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA—the UN body charged with monitoring Iran's activities and ensuring that no nuclear material is being diverted to non-civilian applications) is being refused the access it seeks by Iran, which also declines to answer questions put to it by the agency's staff about alleged studies suggesting a military aspect to Iran's programme. As a result, the IAEA director general has stated that he is unable to verify Iran's nuclear programme is for exclusively peaceful purposes.

Iran's ongoing improvement of its ballistic missile capabilities also continues to cause international concern. Its failure to answer questions from the IAEA about possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme increase concerns that its ballistic missile programme represents a potential nuclear delivery system.

The UK has for many years been clear that we would prefer a more productive relationship with Iran, and for Iran to take its place as a responsible member of the international community. We continue to work through the E3+3 and urge Iran to accept our, and US, offers of engagement in order to achieve a diplomatic resolution of the nuclear issue. The Government welcome the talks recently held between the E3+3 and Iran.

However, Iran continues to pursue its proliferation sensitive nuclear and ballistic missile activities in defiance of five UN Security Council Resolutions.

We cannot and will not ignore specific activities undertaken by Iranian companies which we know to be facilitating activity identified by the UN as being of concern, particularly where such activities have the potential to affect the UK's interests.

On the particular entities in question, vessels of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) have transported goods for both Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes.

Similarly, Bank Mellat has provided banking services to a UN listed organisation connected to Iran's proliferation sensitive activities, and been involved in transactions related to financing Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programme.

The direction to cease business will therefore reduce the risk of the UK financial sector being used, unknowingly or otherwise, to facilitate Iran's proliferation sensitive activities.

Double Taxation Convention (United Kingdom and Austria)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new protocol to the double taxation convention with Austria was signed on 11 September 2009. The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

Double Taxation Agreement (United Kingdom and Malaysia)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new protocol to the double taxation agreement with Malaysia was signed on 22 September 2009. The text of the protocol has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

Equitable Life

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Liam Byrne): On 18 August Sir John Chadwick issued an interim report that set out an approach for assessing relative loss, the definitive questions he believes need to be addressed in taking forward that approach; and the principles he proposes to adopt to determine the appropriate proportion of losses to apportion to the public bodies.

He has extended his original response deadline, to 16 October, with a view to allowing time for interested parties to make responses following the outcome of the judgment of the divisional court in the judicial review proceedings brought against HM Treasury in relation to its response to the parliamentary ombudsman's report into the prudential regulation of Equitable Life. The timing of the judgment is a matter for the court, but is expected to be handed down soon. The Treasury will consider the judgment carefully and respond to Sir John's interim report as soon as it is in a position to do so, recognising that speed continues to be of the essence in this matter.

I will update the House as soon as it is possible to do, after the court's judgment is promulgated.

National Reform Programme 2009

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): I wish to inform the House of the publication on 8 October 2009 of the "UK's National Reform Programme (NRP) 2009", copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

As part of the EU's Lisbon Strategy for jobs and growth, the UK must present to the European Commission by 15 October 2009 its National Reform Programme (NRP) 2009, setting out UK progress on economic reform.

The NRP responds to the recommendations the European Council agreed in March 2009 for the UK on fiscal sustainability and skills and employment, and the Council's points to watch for the UK on housing supply and R and D. The NRP 2009 also reports on UK progress in the areas of the business environment and climate change, energy policy, and sustainable development, which were re-emphasised by the European Council in March 2008 as priority areas over the 2008-10 cycle of the Lisbon Strategy. Reporting is in the context of the current downturn and medium-term reform measures, in line with the European economic recovery plan (EERP). The NRP 2009 does not make any new policy announcements: rather, it reports on the implementation of existing reforms, and looks forward to announced future policies.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKLLLS

National Minimum Wage

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am pleased to announce that the Government have written to the Low Pay Commission setting out the non-economic evidence on the national minimum wage. The evidence addresses enforcement, publicity and awareness and policy issues including apprenticeships, homeworkers and young workers.

The Government will be submitting their economic evidence to the Commission later this year.

A copy of the non-economic evidence will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available from the BIS website at: www.bis.gov.uk.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Loss Payments (2009)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin): The Government have decided not to amend the thresholds for Home Loss payments in 2009. In previous years, since 2003, new thresholds have come into force on 1 September.

Home Loss payments are part of the land compensation system and are paid to owner-occupiers and tenants following compulsory purchase or displacement by housing orders or estate redevelopment. Owner-occupiers receive 10 per cent. of the value of their property—subject to maximum and minimum thresholds—and tenants receive a flat-rate equal to the minimum payment for owner-occupiers.

The thresholds have risen steadily until 2008, when the maximum payment was £47,000 and the minimum and flat-rate were £4,700. The 2009 review indicated that the thresholds could be reduced to £41,000 and £4,100—slightly above the 2006 levels.

The thresholds and flat-rate mainly bite at the minimum level, as very few high-value properties are taken in the normal run of compulsory purchase orders. The people most affected would be those owner-occupiers with properties worth less than £47,000 and tenants receiving the flat-rate, typically those in clearance areas or estate redevelopment schemes by registered social landlords.

The people caught up in these schemes are quite vulnerable, and the Government believe that reducing their home loss payments by £600 (from £4,700 to £4,100) would make life more difficult for those who are already in a very difficult situation. We have therefore decided not to reduce the thresholds this year.

DEFENCE

Apache AH Mk1 Future Support Arrangements

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): Apache is currently providing vital battle-winning capability in support of UK and coalition forces on operations in Afghanistan. Building on the existing support arrangements in place, on 6 October I announced the award of a through-life integrated operational support (IOS) contract to AgustaWestland for implementation of the Apache Helicopter Future Support Arrangements (FSA). This IOS contract is an output-based contract where specific levels of support are required to be achieved by industry while allowing industry to decide the optimum way to provide that support. Under the contract, one of the key areas will see AgustaWestland increasing the availability of the Apache helicopters from the current level to over 70 per cent. which will be of significant benefit to front-line users. In addition the contract will reduce through-life costs through AgustaWestland implementing continuous improvements in the service provided.

This contract will build on the existing effective and efficient engineering and logistical support for the Apache AH Mkl helicopter to the frontline. The contract is valued at £439 million for the period to March 2014, with a price review thereafter, and transfers to industry further responsibility for Apache AH Mkl maintenance and support and associated risk of delivering the required output. The contract is forecast to deliver savings in the region of £50 million over the first contract period as compared to the projected costs of current support arrangements, with the potential to deliver further savings through life. This will be achieved whilst also increasing aircraft availability.

The contract represents another step forward in the helicopter plans set out in the MOD-AgustaWestland strategic partnering arrangement, strengthens our relationship with the industry, and will increase aircraft availability levels despite reducing through-life costs. Progress with this IOS contract builds on the similar support contracts already in place for the Sea King and Merlin helicopters that have also been previously awarded to AgustaWestland.

Overall the Apache IOS contract provides excellent value for money for the taxpayer and delivers improved and efficient support to the frontline.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Joan Ruddock): The UK Climate Change Act makes the UK the first country to set a long-term legal framework for reducing emissions over the next four decades. The Act has demonstrated decisive international leadership, showing the UK is committed to taking up its responsibility for reducing global emissions. As part of this commitment, Government will introduce the carbon reduction commitment, an energy efficiency instrument, next April. The CRC will help large public and business sector organisations reduce their emissions through improved energy efficiency and thereby save £1 billion each year by 2020. I also intend that CRC will deliver emissions reductions of more than 4 million tonnes of CO_2 per year by that time. Given the primary focus of the scheme on energy efficiency, CRC will now be known as the CRC Energy Efficiency scheme (CRC). Last Wednesday, the UK's Administrations published the Government response to the third consultation on the scheme which was held between March and June 2009. That consultation related to the scheme's regulatory basis. The response finalises the policy for the scheme before its launch in April 2010.

Without new policies, emissions from public and business sectors will not achieve the carbon reductions we require over coming years. This group of organisations in particular has significant potential to achieve cost-effective energy efficiency savings. There are clear benefits from positive, immediate action to tackle climate change and investment that takes place in the next 10-20 years will have a profound effect on the climate in the second half of this century. Government are committed to ambitious targets to reduce the UK's CO_2 emissions, and this will require contributions from all sectors of the economy and from across all parts of the UK.

The basic trajectory of CRC remains. The first introductory phase of the scheme until 2013 will have an unlimited number of allowances. Thereafter Government will set the number of allowances, which will decrease year on year to ensure that the potential for efficiency savings are realised. I will be taking the advice of the Committee on climate change before setting this cap in 2012, but anticipate that the scheme will ensure that large organisations play their full role in contributing to our emissions reductions of at least 34 per cent. by 2020.

The UK Government have worked together with devolved Administrations and stakeholders in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that the CRC is in keeping with our shared long term vision for a "light touch" yet robust scheme, which provides both financial and reputational incentives for these sectors to increase energy efficiency and deliver emissions reductions.

In light of feedback from the consultation, I am pleased to announce that I have adjusted the scheme to ensure that the financial impact from the purchase of allowances will be similar in all years. I have decided that the retrospective purchase of allowances for 2010-11 will no longer be required. Participants will be required only to correctly report their emissions in the first year. I have therefore halved the financial impact in the first year, compared to a double sale of allowances.

Other changes include the possibility for subsidiary organisations that would qualify in their own right to be able to participate in the scheme independently from their parent or fellow subsidiary organisations. This will give organisations greater flexibility to choose the approach that best works for them, without losing emissions coverage of the scheme. I have also given extra weighting in the second year to the measurement of early action, which will feature in the league table. This change responds to stakeholder feedback and better reflects the expected life of the contribution made by such early action to an organisation's energy efficiency.

The CRC is the only UK scheme focused on energy efficiency measures, and therefore the main league table on which revenue recycling is based will remain an energy efficiency league table. I have carefully considered stakeholders' views on the role of renewables in the scheme and in particular that many participants are also looking to invest in onsite renewable electricity generation to help play their part in a transition to a low carbon economy. I therefore want to recognise these efforts, alongside energy efficiency achievements, and will publish a second table which sets out the contribution made from both energy efficiency measures and the onsite generation of electricity from renewable resources, where this is also consumed onsite.

In achieving our climate change ambitions, it is critical that senior management throughout the economy are engaged in achieving these objectives. The CRC provides the policy framework to ensure that the existing best practice of our leading organisations will be more widely taken up, and that carbon becomes correctly considered, reported and valued. The scheme sits alongside the "Guidance on how to measure and report your greenhouse gas emissions", published by Government on 30 September, explaining how all organisations should measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions, including those organisations captured by the CRC. Investors and the public will increasingly make judgments about organisations' achievements on both saving energy and tackling climate change. I believe that the scheme will be an effective tool in helping the public and private sector play their part in avoiding catastrophic climate change.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fly-tipping

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Dan Norris): Copies of the annual report on the number of incidents of fly-tipping recorded by local authorities on the Government's Flycapture database in 2008-09 will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses today. This report gives information on the number and type of incidents, the type of land where the incident occurred and the estimated cost to authorities of dealing with it.

I am pleased to announce that there was a reduction of 9.3 per cent. in the number of fly-tipping incidents recorded by local authorities on the Flycapture database from 2007-08. I am also pleased to highlight the good work carried out by local authorities in carrying out 2,000 prosecutions alongside over 520,000 other enforcement actions to prevent or in response to fly-tipping incidents in 2008-09.

DEFRA will continue to work with the Environment Agency and local authorities to prevent illegal waste activity through a combination of prevention, education and enforcement.

This report is also available from the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

TB Eradication Group for England

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): In November 2008 representatives of the farming industry, the veterinary profession and DEFRA officials formed the TB eradication group for England to make recommendations to Ministers on bovine TB and its eradication. Last week the group published a progress report, including a number of recommendations. The UK has also submitted a TB eradication plan for 2010 to the European Commission. In addition Scotland has recently succeeded in achieving regional officially TB-free (OTF) status.

Bovine TB Eradication Group for England

I welcome the eradication group's report which shows the progress they have made since last November. I have had useful discussions with the group, and appreciate their hard work in starting to develop a long-term, risk-based eradication programme. They have made recommendations for changes that can be made now to tackle the disease through improved surveillance and control, which I have accepted and already started to implement. They have also considered and recommended measures to support farms subject to TB restrictions.

First, there is a change in our policy on inconclusive reactors to the TB skin test. To date we have allowed two re-tests of repeat inconclusive reactors. However this risks leaving infected animals on farm, so from 1 January 2010 only a single re-test of repeat inconclusive reactors will be allowed before they are removed and slaughtered. This change brings us in line with EU law, and follows a similar move earlier this year in Wales and Scotland.

Secondly, there is a change in the way that routine TB surveillance testing intervals are set. There are risks with the current approach of setting these on a reactive basis at parish level, in particular that it does not allow us to get ahead of the disease. The eradication group will be looking at more risk-based approaches. Since this will take some time to develop, an interim approach will be introduced for 2010. This is based on a more proactive assessment of TB incidence and risk. The resulting testing regime for 2010 will be more coherent and consistent than in previous years and increase the number of herds in the high-risk areas which are tested annually, as well as increasing surveillance in areas at risk of TB spread by testing them every two years.

Finally, I understand the significant impacts TB restrictions can have. Following recommendations from the eradication group, animal health has introduced changes to make it easier for TB-restricted farms to buy replacement stock and sell their own surplus cattle, without materially undermining disease controls. Further measures to reduce the burden on TB-affected farms will be introduced in the next few months. Farmers under TB restrictions should also have access to the best available advice. DEFRA officials are looking at how to support the provision of professional advice for TB-affected farmers, to be introduced early in the new year.

DEFRA is providing an additional £5 million of funding for increased testing, compensation of TB reactor animals that are removed and slaughtered, and for advisory services. This will be found from savings elsewhere across DEFRA. There will be additional costs for some farmers, in terms of pre-movement testing requirements and TB restrictions; but I agree with the group that these are needed if we are to stop further spread and effectively tackle the disease.

The group's progress report addresses wildlife controls and the culling of badgers. I have had frank discussions with it on these issues and have agreed that they should remain on the group's agenda. I made it clear that the policy is that licences will not be issued to cull badgers for bovine TB control in England, and I will only revisit this under exceptional circumstances, or if new scientific evidence becomes available. The group said in its report that it cannot, at this stage, make a clear case for change on this basis.

I will place copies of the group's report in the Libraries of both Houses.

The UK bovine TB eradication plan was submitted to the European Commission on 15 September. The Commission's decision on approval and funding for our eradication plan will be published by the end of November. The eradication group contributed to the England sections of the plan.

Scotland is not included in the plan since it was granted officially TB-free (OTF) status on 8 September. The Scottish Executive and industry are to be congratulated on this significant achievement.

While responsibility for bovine TB is devolved, Scotland's newly recognised status will affect the whole of the UK. Measures will be put in place to govern movements of cattle into Scotland from the rest of the UK. All UK Administrations have been working with stakeholders to develop these, with measures expected to come into force in February 2010. My priority has been to minimise the impact on the industry in England, ensuring that the measures introduced are appropriate and proportionate, recognising that many parts of England are low risk. I have agreed with Richard Lochhead (Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment) that if there are outstanding details in November implementation should be delayed until final mutual agreement is reached.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): On 1 October 2009 DEFRA published guidance, in partnership with the Department of Energy and Climate Change, explaining how organisations should measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions as required under section 83 of the Climate Change Act 2008. This followed a public consultation exercise on the draft guidance which closed on 7 August 2009.

The guidance is available on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/reporting/index.htm and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Turks and Caicos Islands

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chris Bryant): On 12 August the Court of Appeal in London dismissed the appeal brought by former Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Premier Michael Misick challenging our proposed action to tackle corruption in the Islands. Two days later I announced that I had instructed the Governor to bring into force an Order in Council suspending ministerial Government and the House of Assembly for a period of up to two years. The Order also suspended the constitutional right to trial by jury in TCI, which provides the possibility in future of having trials by judge alone in the TCI Supreme Court in appropriate cases.

This was a serious constitutional step which the Government did not take lightly. But these measures were essential in order to restore the principles of good governance and sound financial management. It remains our intention that elections should be held by July 2011, if not sooner.

In his final report, Sir Robin Auld confirmed that there was information in abundance pointing to a high probability of systemic corruption and/or serious dishonesty in TCI. In Sir Robin's view this, together with clear signs of political amorality and immaturity and of general administrative incompetence, demonstrated a need for urgent suspension in whole or in part of the constitution and for other legislative and administrative reforms. Sir Robin also made preliminary recommendations including the institution of criminal investigations in relation to Michael Misick, and four of his former Cabinet ministers. He confirmed the recommendation in the interim report for the establishment of a Civil and Criminal Recovery Unit and the appointment of a special prosecutor.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sir Robin and his team for their hard work, determination and dedication which has produced such a detailed and comprehensive report. The Governor has taken the following steps towards ensuring that the principles of good governance, sustainable development and sound financial management can be restored as quickly as possible:

> An Advisory Council, chaired by the Governor, and a Consultative Forum, have been appointed by the Governor. Both bodies have now met and continue to do so regularly. They will ensure that the voice and views of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to be heard.
>
> A full review of the TCI Governments finances has been undertaken and, in discussion with the Advisory Council and following debate in the Consultative Forum, further measures put in place to limit public expenditure, increase revenue and bring the islands' debt under control. The Governor published a new budget at the end of September.
>
> A range of (UK) Government-funded advisers is now in place to offer support and guidance not only to the Governor, but also to the public service. They are working in key areas of concern, as identified in Sir Robin Auld's final report such as public financial management, crown land, customs and good governance. We are looking to appoint others to assist in areas such as immigration and constitutional and electoral reform.
>
> The Chief Executive has launched an extensive restructuring of TCP s public service. A major review of TCI Ministries has been completed to help provide more efficient and effective public services. This has included the creation of two new Ministries: Border Control, and Tourism, Trade and Economic Development. New Permanent Secretaries (all TC Islanders) have been appointed. Membership of statutory boards has also been updated.
>
> Work is underway to strengthen a number of areas of public sector delivery. Emphasis is also being placed on improving the ethics and culture of public service, particularly with respect to transparency and ensuring that all public sector decisions are taken in line with clear published policies. Additionally, public complaints and redress procedures are being strengthened.
>
> A special prosecutor, Helen Garlick, and her team have been appointed and paid an initial visit to TCI in August. They have presented their initial scoping project to the Governor.
>
> The Governor has undertaken a series of town hall meetings and has visited all the main inhabited islands: Salt Cay, South Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos and Providenciales, as well as Grand Turk. This has given him the opportunity to explain to the general public what the interim Government means for them, to answer their questions, and to hear their concerns.

HEALTH

Human Papillomavirus (Cervical Cancer) Vaccination Programme

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): Hon. Members will be aware of the tragic death of a 14 year old girl in Coventry on 28 September soon after she had received the Cervarix vaccine. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this difficult time.

At the inquest into the girl's death, the pathologist confirmed that she died from a large malignant tumour of unknown origin in the heart and lungs. There is no indication that the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was a contributing factor to the death.

Before the results of the post-mortem were confirmed, the batch of vaccine in question was quarantined as a purely precautionary measure. Subsequently the manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline, voluntarily initiated a recall of the stock.

Over 1 million doses of the HPV vaccine gave been given in the United Kingdom since the programme began, and the vaccine has an excellent safety profile. It is estimated that the immunisation programme will save the lives of 400 women each year.

Information on the clinical trials of the vaccine is publicly available on the website of the European Medicines Agency, the body that advises on the licensing of the vaccine: www.emea.europa.eu/humandocs/PDFs/EPAR/cervarix/H-721-en6.pdf

We have been transparent about the vaccine's safety since the programme started in the UK. Information on the MHRA's continuous review of safety and reports of suspected side effects are published each week on the MHRA website. The Commission on Human Medicines has recently reviewed the first year safety experience and advised that no serious new safety issues have been identified despite significant usage of the vaccine in the UK. A summary of this review has now been published on the MHRA website at: www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/Safetyguidance/DrugSafetyUpdate/CON059804

The HPV vaccine protects against cervical cancer, and we are committed to offering girls and young women protection against it. The vaccine has an excellent safety profile. Parents should continue to have confidence in this vaccine and ensure their daughters are protected against developing cervical cancer in the future.

HOME DEPARTMENT

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Review (Home Office Leaks)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I am today placing in the Library of the House a copy of the HMIC report into the lessons learned from the recent Metropolitan Police investigation into Home Office leaks.

This report was commissioned by my predecessor. Its terms of reference were:

> "Denis O'Connor, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, supported by his small team of relevant experts, will undertake a review of the lessons learned from the recent Metropolitan Police investigation into Home Office leaks. The review will report to the Home Secretary".

I am most grateful to Denis O'Connor for his work. It is important his recommendations are now followed up.

JUSTICE

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Further to my statement of 16 September, about progress on the implementation of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, parliamentary approval for additional resources of £1,100,000 for this new expenditure will be sought in a winter supplementary estimate for the Ministry of Justice. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £1,100,000 is being met by a repayable cash advance from the Contingencies Fund.

Parliamentary authority for expenditure by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will also be sought, in a new estimate.

Defamation Proceedings (Costs)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I issued the Government's response to the consultation paper "Controlling Costs in Defamation Proceedings" on 24 September 2009.

The high level of costs incurred in defamation and some other publication proceedings have been the subject of criticism and debate in the courts and Parliament. The Government are concerned that the risk of excessive costs may force defendants to settle unmeritorious claims, which in turn may encourage a more risk-averse approach to media reporting and is a risk to freedom of expression.

In the light of the responses to the consultation paper and recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Civil Costs, the Government asked the Civil Procedure Rule Committee (CPRC) to consider draft rules to implement a number of measures to control costs in publication proceedings. The CPRC met twice to consider these proposals, and has approved amendments to:

> require notice of after the event—ATE—insurance to be given to the other party with the letter before claim or within seven days of entering taking out insurance;
>
> require additional information to be given as to whether premiums are staged and if so the stage at which increased premiums become payable and the level of insurance cover; and
>
> in publication proceedings to introduce a 42-day period during which if the defendant admits liability and makes an offer leading to a settlement, the defendant is not liable for the ATE insurance premium.

In addition the CPRC suggested and approved a practice direction to implement a mandatory 12-month costs budgeting pilot for defamation and malicious falsehood proceedings. The Government will monitor the outcome of this pilot closely and hope that there will be close supervision, in particular, of hourly rates which are key to controlling costs in this area.

Rules to bring these measures into effect were included in the Civil Procedure (Amendments) Rules 2009 laid before Parliament to come into effect on 1 October 2009. Amendments to the pre-action protocols and practice directions also came into effect on the same date.

The Government have decided not to implement the other measures contained in the consultation paper at this time but will review them in the light of outcome of the pilot and recommendations made by Lord Justice Jackson's review of civil litigation costs. We will also consider whether further measures are needed in this area.

Copies of the response paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The paper is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/controlling-costs-in-defamation-proceedings.htm

Copies have also been made available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): On Thursday 24 September I deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000—Statistics on

Implementation in Central Government: Q2—April—June 2009" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the Quarterly Monitoring Statistics Report analysing the performance of central Government in the fifth full year of freedom of information.

HM Courts Service Estates

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I will be making a written ministerial statement tomorrow on this matter.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Assisted Suicide

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

> Following the House of Lords judgment in Purdy v DPP the Director of Public Prosecutions issued his interim policy document on the 23 September 2009, setting out the particular factors he would take account of when deciding whether to give consent to the prosecution of a person for the offence of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring (assisting) another to commit or attempt to commit suicide.
>
> This policy was issued on an interim basis and at the same time the Director announced he would start a consultation exercise that would last for three months. He is aiming to then publish his finalised policy in the Spring of 2010. Copies of the interim policy and the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.
>
> The policy does not change the law but responds to the House of Lords judgment in the case of Purdy v DPP.
>
> It has never been the rule in England and Wales that suspected criminal offenders must automatically be prosecuted. Where there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of a conviction for assisted suicide, the Director must, as with all offences, go on to consider whether a prosecution is needed in the public interest. In exercising that discretion, the Director takes into account factors both for and against prosecution. These are set out in the code for Crown Prosecutors. The consideration of evidence followed by a consideration of whether a prosecution is needed in the public interest constitutes the full code test.
>
> In the case of Purdy v DPP the House of Lords considered that in the special case of assisted suicide the Director should issue a policy document setting out the further public interest factors that may apply to this specific offence in order to give prosecutors and persons in Ms Purdy's position extra clarity as to the exercise of the prosecutorial discretion.
>
> Each case is unique and will be considered on its own facts and merits with prosecutors continuing to apply the factors in the code for Crown Prosecutors as well as the new interim policy.

TRANSPORT

Urban Congestion Performance Fund

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I am today announcing adjustments to the second payment tranche for the urban congestion performance fund. This follows the statement on 23 February 2009 when the 10 largest urban areas in England received £10.7 million to study and address the causes of urban congestion.

My Department has a Public Service Agreement indicator regarding journey time on main roads into urban areas. The indicator states that by 2010-11 the 10 largest urban areas in England will meet the congestion targets set in their local transport plans relating to movement on main roads into city centres. The national indicator will be deemed to have been met if, on target routes in these areas, an average increase in travel of 4.4 per cent. is accommodated with an average increase of 3.6 per cent. in person journey time per mile.

The publication of the "Transport Statistics Bulletin, Road Statistics 2008: Traffic, Speeds and Congestion", on 25 June 2009 included revised performance data for the urban congestion indicator for the academic year 2007-08.

The overall national data now shows that the average person journey time across all the target routes has improved by 3.1 per cent. between the baseline (using 2004-05 and 2005-06 data) and 2007-08. The original announcement in February stated that it was a fall of 3.0 per cent. At the same time the average level of travel fell by 2.7 per cent. across all the target routes, whereas the original published figure was 3.3 per cent.

The individual data have also been adjusted for a number of areas. Based on this revised performance data, the West Midlands will now receive the modified payments as detailed in the table:

Urban Area	*Original Tranche 2 payment announced on 23 February 2009*	*Revised Tranche 2 payment*
West Midlands	£1,064,645	£1,216,738

Leicester's performance data have also been adjusted from a fall in journey time of 0.1 per cent. to an increase of 1.1 per cent., but this is still better than their trajectory target. As the priority of the performance fund is to enable the urban areas to identify and tackle the causes of congestion, it has been decided to retain Leicester's original performance fund allocation of £361,226. No other area had a significant change in their performance data for 2007-08.

The performance fund is worth a total of £60 million over four years, and today's announcement will have seen a total of £22.9 million paid to the 10 areas. A further £35 million is available over the next two financial years, and will also be awarded on a performance basis.

WALES

Legislative Competence Order

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Housing) Order 2009 relating to Domestic Fire Safety was laid on 7 October, as Command Paper (Cm 7715). This Order has been proposed by a backbench member of the National Assembly for Wales, Ann Jones, and has the support of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and the Library. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitution Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 13 October 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Official Receptions

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I have today published a list of official receptions held by my Department in the financial year 2008-09.

The total cost of official receptions held by Ministers at the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the financial year 2008-09 was £4,763.00 (£12.00 per head).

Official Receptions Hosted by Ministers at the Department for Children, Schools and Families 2008-09

Date	*Event*	*Number*	*Host*
16.07.08	Summer drinks with Stakeholder	75	Secretary of State and Ministers
17.07.08	Annual Summer reception for media correspondents	50	Secretary of State and Ministers
09.10.08	SEN Information Bill reception	33	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners
09.12.08	Annual Winter reception for media correspondents	50	Secretary of State and Ministers
11.12.08	Christmas drinks with Stakeholders	128	Secretary of State and Ministers
12.02.09	Child Health Strategy Stakeholder reception	50	Secretary of State and Ministers

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development and I would like to inform the House about the Government's ongoing active engagement in Sri Lanka following the end of the conflict almost five months ago between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka.

When I visited Sri Lanka with French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner in April our three areas of focus were to:

urge the Government and LTTE to minimise the humanitarian impact of the then ongoing hostilities and to improve conditions for internally displaced persons (IDPs);

to call for a strengthening of the rule of law to address human rights concerns;

and to encourage urgent action on setting out a political process to address the grievances of minorities. I will cover each of these in turn.

In summary, as I explained to Foreign Minister Bogollagama in New York at the end of last month, we remain deeply concerned about the situation, not least but not only because of the forthcoming monsoon. Lives are at stake but so is the long term health of Sri Lanka.

Humanitarian Situation

The last stage of fighting created almost 300,000 IDPs, the majority of whom were moved to camps in the north of Sri Lanka, near Vavuniya. Approximately 253,000 still remain inside IDP camps. The latest UN figures of 28 September show that only 7,000 people have returned to their place of origin and a further 8,000 vulnerable IDPs have been released to host families. I can report some improvement since my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) and I visited the camps in three separate visits in late April and early May. Sanitation facilities have improved and malnutrition cases have decreased markedly. Access for humanitarian agencies is better but remains adhoc and there is scope for further improvements. The IDPs continue to have inadequate access to health care and following a drop in the river level delivery of adequate water has been problematic in recent weeks. Unusually heavy rains during August demonstrated that the camps are ill-equipped for the sustained heavy rains expected from mid-October to December during the monsoon season.

We are concerned over the lack of freedom of movement for the IDP population because of the nature of the 'closed' camps and over the ongoing separation of families and the heavy military oversight of the camps. We are also concerned that there is no independent visibility of the process by which over 11,000 IDPs have been identified as suspected LTTE cadres and moved to separate camps and that the UN and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have had no access to them since July.

The seriousness in which we continue to hold the humanitarian situation was demonstrated by the visit last week of my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Department for International Development. He visited areas of the former conflict zone, IDP camps and centres for the rehabilitation of former child combatants. He saw for himself the conditions for civilians inside the camps and ongoing contingency preparations for the monsoon.

Since September 2008, the Government have allocated £12.5 million of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka. In the final stages of the war we used our funding to help the ICRC and the UN to deliver critical humanitarian assistance to civilians trapped in the conflict zone and to ensure facilities in IDP camps met minimum standards. Following the end of the conflict we have continued to support critical work inside the IDP camps, for example funding UN agencies to vaccinate children against polio and measles and to provide emergency drainage in an attempt to minimise the impact of the forthcoming monsoon rains. However, in recent months we have increasingly focused our support on activities designed to facilitate the speedy return of civilians to their home areas. For example, we have funded the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to provide temporary identity cards to IDPs and transport for those returning to their homes and funded the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to demining civilian areas of the former conflict zone. All of the UK's humanitarian funding continues to be channelled through neutral and impartial humanitarian aid agencies to help those who need it most.

My hon. friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development used his visit to highlight our concern about the lack of progress on returning IDPs to their homes and to urge the Sri Lankan Government to meet their own target of returning the majority of IDPs by the end of the year. He further encouraged the Sri Lankan Government to release IDPs who have already been screened. He made clear that it was not acceptable to transfer IDPs from one closed camp to another in a different part of the country, as has happened in some cases.

Freedom of movement for the IDP population is critical if a humanitarian crisis is to be averted in the IDP camps when the monsoon rains fall. The humanitarian gains made in the IDP camps risk being lost from the resulting deterioration in water and sanitation facilities and consequent effect on health indicators. We are working with others to press for freedom of movement to be restored to the IDPs.

During his visit, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development confirmed that once the critical monsoon season is over we will only fund life-saving emergency interventions in the existing 'closed' camps and that we will not support people simply being transferred from the existing 'closed' camps to new 'closed' camps. A £4.8 million of UK funding remains available to help the Sri Lankan Government in the process of recovery from the conflict in the areas of demining, support to enable the return of the IDPs to their places of origin and to help them recover their livelihoods.

We continue to support multilateral engagement in Sri Lanka. The UN has a key role in focusing international concern; co-ordinating the international humanitarian response; and providing advice and support to the Government to help heal the rifts that divide Sri Lanka's communities. We welcome the involvement by UN agencies on the ground in Sri Lanka and the ongoing senior level engagement that has included visits to Sri Lanka since the end of the war by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Lynn Pascoe the Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs and Walter Kaelin, the UN's Special Representative for the human rights of IDPs. The UN's experience and expertise in working in post-conflict environments is widely acknowledged and I urge the Sri Lankan Government to engage constructively with all levels of the UN.

At the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the UK took the decision in July not to support the stand-by arrangement for Sri Lanka. While we acknowledged the need to help Sri Lanka avoid a damaging balance of payments crisis that would have disproportionately affected the poorest and most vulnerable members of society, we judged that the risks of a default had diminished and that the humanitarian and political situations posed risks to implementation of the programme. The programme was passed by the IMF board and we will now turn our attention to monitoring the programme's implementation through a robust review process.

Human Rights

The wider human rights situation in Sri Lanka remains very worrying following the end of the conflict. Although reduced, reports of extra-judicial killings, abductions, disappearances and intimidation have continued. Media and civil society organisations who are critical of the Government remain at particular risk and continue to be the victims of anonymous death threats and, in some cases, violent attack. The recent sentencing of a journalist, Tissainayagam, to 20 years imprisonment sent a very negative message about media freedom in Sri Lanka. A culture of impunity continues, with no progress towards identifying the individuals behind recent high profile human rights abuses, such as the murder in January of Lasantha Wickrematunge, a leading newspaper editor. We welcome the fact that in two recent cases, the alleged abduction of a university student and the killing of two youths in southern Sri Lanka, the Government have ordered investigations into alleged police involvement and action is being taken through the Sri Lankan courts. The Sri Lankan Government continue to retain extraordinary emergency powers which limit the fundamental democratic freedoms of its citizens. With the LTTE defeated and a substantially reduced terrorist threat we hope to see the Emergency Regulations lifted soon.

In our bilateral contacts we have encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka to tackle the culture of impunity in Sri Lanka. In this light we welcome the investigations and subsequent legal action against police officers involved in alleged abuses and encourage the Government to take similar action in all cases where such allegations are made. We have also been active in working with the EU to call for an improvement in human rights in Sri Lanka. An improvement is important too in the context of the investigation by the EU Commission looking at whether Sri Lanka should continue to benefit from the EU trade scheme, GSP+ which is dependent on the implementation of a number of human rights-related conventions. We have consistently encouraged the Sri Lankan Government to engage constructively with the Commission.

Political Settlement

At the end of May the Sri Lankan President issued a joint statement with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recognising the need to work 'towards a lasting political solution ....fundamental to ensuring long-term socio-economic development', and to take measures 'to address possible violations of international humanitarian law during the conflict.' The Government of Sri Lanka have stated their intention to begin a process of political reform and reconciliation after elections which are expected in the first half of 2010. They have made some welcome moves to reach out to minority communities in the interim. For example, the President recently opened a dialogue with the Tamil National Alliance, the principal grouping of Tamil politicians inside Sri Lanka, and for the first time in over 25 years the police force have begun a recruitment process in Jaffna, a majority Tamil area in northern Sri Lanka. The Government have publicly recognised that the Tamil Diaspora can play a positive role in helping shape the future direction of Sri Lanka. I encourage the Government to continue with, and to broaden, their initial contacts with representatives of the Diaspora. We are concerned that the Government have yet to make clear how it intends to address concerns that both sides may have been responsible for violations of international humanitarian law during the conflict.

The UK has consistently maintained that one of the prerequisites for lasting peace in Sri Lanka is a political settlement that fully takes into account the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all communities. When the my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to President Rajapakse on 18 May he urged him to be magnanimous in victory. On the same day I pressed Foreign Minister Bogollagama to seize the historic opportunity—and duty—to lay the foundations for the peaceful, secure and prosperous Sri Lanka that we all want to see. Despite some recent welcome developments the Government need to show greater urgency in making clear their plans for future political reforms if they are serious about wanting to win the confidence of Tamils, Muslims and other communities in Sri Lanka. We hope to see an inclusive, genuine political process initiated as soon as possible.

We have consistently called for a credible process of accountability, most recently during the visit to the UK of the Sri Lankan Attorney-General and Justice Permanent Secretary in early October and the visit of the Sri Lankan Justice Minister in September. Addressing accountability could play an integral role in the process of reconciliation and will be essential in creating conditions for a sustainable end to the conflict. The recent broadcast of mobile phone footage purporting to show members of the Sri Lankan military summarily executing Tamils underlines the importance of lifting the fog of uncertainty surrounding events of the final months of fighting when independent observers had no access to the conflict zone.

The Government remain actively involved in working for a peaceful Sri Lanka. We have urged the Sri Lankan Government, in a number of direct contacts, to make greater progress on improving conditions inside the camps, on returning IDPs to their homes and on working for reconciliation. We urge that freedom of movement be returned to IDPs, and highlight the urgency of doing so before the monsoon. We also encourage swifter progress on the development of an inclusive political process to address minority concerns and for an improvement in the rule of law, including accountability for possible violations of international humanitarian law, as both would be essential for a sustainable end to the conflict.

We continue to work with other international partners, such as the US and India, the EU and the UN. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Sri Lanka, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun, visited Washington and the UN (in New York and Geneva) in September to exchange views on Sri Lanka with other partners and will be writing to hon. Members this week to inform them of his visits.

The final death toll of the 25-year conflict may never be known, but it is likely that over 100,000 Sri Lankans of all communities died over the course of the conflict. The Sri Lankan Government need to steer the country away from the violence that has troubled the country for so long and towards long-term peace, security and prosperity for all their citizens. The Government will continue to work with the Sri Lankan Government and with other partners to help bring this about.

HEALTH

Patient Safety (Government Response to Select Committee Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): We are today laying before Parliament the Government's response (Cm 7709) to the Health Select Committee (HSC) report "Patient Safety", which was published on 3 July 2009.

"High Quality Care for All", the final report of the "NHS Next Stage Review", published in June 2008, set out a vision of an NHS that has quality of care at its heart; and works in partnership with patients and the public, providing people with more information and choice.

Securing the safety of patients applies to all healthcare disciplines and it is a challenge faced by healthcare systems all over the world. Safety is a core dimension of quality and relies on a whole system if patients are to receive the highest level of care. The key to achieving this is creating a culture that is open and fair—open to patients and fair for staff. This requires a broad range of actions in organisational leadership, performance improvement, environmental safety, risk management and clinical engagement.

The Health Select Committee's report praises the Government for being the first in the world to adopt a policy, that makes patient safety a priority and welcomes the creation of the National Patient Safety Agency and the work of the National Reporting and Learning System to facilitate systematic reporting and learning from adverse events involving patients.

The Committee was concerned that not all services are safe enough yet and made several recommendations for the future improvement of patient safety.

The Government response welcomes the Health Select Committee's report and sets out the measures that the Government have been taking to improve patient safety as part of its quality agenda.

Today's publication is in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I write today to inform the House of changes we are making to the way in which we register initial asylum applications and further submissions, where someone whose appeal rights have been exhausted asks us to re-examine their claim on the basis of further information or a change in their personal circumstances.

In February 2003 we announced that anyone wishing to make an asylum claim would need to do so in person, and postal applications for asylum would no longer be accepted. We expect individuals to make their claim at a port of entry, where they will be screened and any request for support will be considered. This change was made as part of our reform of the asylum system and has ensured that applications are gripped at the beginning of the system, identity of the applicant is verified and cases are routed quickly to the responsible caseowner to progress the case.

Since then, we have made great progress in processing asylum applications as quickly as possible. We reached our target of concluding 60 per cent. of new asylum cases within six months in December 2008 and we continue to set ourselves challenging targets for the conclusion of cases. We have also been working closely with the UNHCR to improve the quality of our decision making.

There are, however, parts of the system where information is not gripped as quickly, and it is this we are seeking to address with the changes we will make today. When applicants have exhausted their appeal rights, they often provide further submissions asking us to reconsider their claims. Currently, individuals can still make their further submissions by post.

From 14 October, anyone wishing to make a further submission will need to do so in person by appointment, and we will stop accepting further submissions by post. The following arrangements will be in place:

those who claimed asylum before 5 March 2007, and whose case is being managed by CRD, will be required to make any further submissions by appointment and in person at Liverpool Further Submissions Unit;

those who claimed on or after 5 March 2007 will be required to make any further submissions in person at a specified reporting centre in their region.

In the very exceptional case where a person is genuinely unable to attend one of these sites, alternative arrangements will be made to ensure that person can still make further submissions.

It is important that anyone seeking asylum does so at the first opportunity, and we continue to expect individuals to make their asylum claim at the port of entry, on arrival.

From 14 October, it will no longer be possible for initial asylum applications to be made in Liverpool, and anyone wishing to make an initial asylum application in country will be required to do so in person at the Asylum Screening Unit in Croydon.

Identity Cards

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am pleased to announce that provisions in the Identity Cards Act 2006 are being commenced as from Tuesday 20 October 2009 so as to enable applications to be made for identity cards at a fee of £30. This will apply to people working in the Home Office, the Identity and Passport Service and elsewhere who are engaged on work relating to the issue of identity cards, and will be extended later in 2009 to residents of Greater Manchester and airside workers at Manchester and London City airports and in early 2010 to other locations in the North-West.

Anti-social Behaviour

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Alan Johnson): I am today announcing a number of measures to step up action on anti-social behaviour.

Since this Government introduced ASBOs in 1998 there have been real changes in how people feel about ASB—17 per cent. of people felt that levels of ASB in their areas were high in 2008-09 compared to 21 per cent. in 2002-03. The tools and powers introduced by this Government over the last 11 years are working: the 2006 NAO report on anti-social behaviour found that 93 per cent. of people desisted from ASB after the third intervention. A significant package of practitioner support has also been provided including workshops, the ASB telephone ActionLine service and the ASB action website.

I am determined to ensure that we continue to improve our response; tackling, not tolerating ASB. Too many people continue to suffer at the hands of a small number of individuals intent on behaving anti-socially.

Today, I am announcing a package of measures to improve the collective response to ASB. Action will be stepped up on tackling breach, on ensuring that minimum service standards are in place locally and on providing more practical help to victims and witnesses of ASB.

Improving local ASB services is key. There is a comprehensive range of tools and powers that local agencies can use to tackle ASB. These must be utilised fully and we will provide training on civil powers to local practitioners and others involved in tackling ASB.

Alongside this, we will step up action on breach of ASBOs. ASBOs are designed to inhibit the behaviour of perpetrators and protect victims and so we must ensure that, once given, they are enforced and any breach dealt with appropriately. The Office for Criminal Justice reform will write shortly to LCJB chairs to ask them to assess how effectively breaches are being dealt with, seeking assurance that swift and appropriate action is being taken in all cases which we plan to back up with new guidance. There will be an expectation that information from the original ASBO case will be taken into account before sentencing of breach. This will include a community impact statement where there is one. We are currently piloting the use of community impact statements in cases when an ASBO has been breached with a view to rolling the scheme out nationally. We will also legislate shortly to make parenting orders mandatory in cases where a child breaches an ASBO.

Local areas will also be encouraged to set and publicise minimum service standards over the next six months so that the public will know what to expect. These standards will vary from area to area, but at a minimum should cover a commitment from partners to:

reduce perceptions of ASB year on year;

take reported cases of ASB seriously; recording, investigating and keeping victims informed of action taken;

provide regular information to residents on what action is being taken to tackle ASB;

offer support and practical help to victims of ASB;

ensure an effective link between neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management;

provide residents with a right of complaint to CDRPs/CSPs if effective action is not taken by local agencies through existing channels.

Targeted support and challenge will be provided to areas where more than 25 per cent. of the population think anti-social behaviour is a big or very big problem. Over the next three months we will offer support and develop individual solutions to local problems in these areas, reflecting the varying forms that ASB can take.

Central to renewed action on ASB, is the need to improve services to victims. I have announced an extension of the funding in "Justice Seen Justice Done" pioneer areas, for new, local victims champions in the targeted areas. The role of the champions will be to promote the needs of ASB victims and coordinate local services to ensure victims receive the support and information they want and need. They will deliver a more intensive package in the areas where ASB perceptions are highest. We will also extend victim support services to all victims and witnesses of ASB in magistrates court and we will introduce a national training programme for ASB coordinators to improve their work.

This new set of measures will help improve the way local partners deal with anti-social behaviour. We must take concerted action now to get our response to ASB right. The perpetrators must face swift and appropriate action. And this must be delivered alongside adequate support for both victims, witnesses and the wider community. Local councils, the police, social landlords and other local partners must listen to their communities, understand their concerns and respond to them effectively.

JUSTICE

Boundary Commission for Wales

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I should like to inform the House that I have made the following appointment under schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986:

> The Honourable Mr. Justice Lloyd Jones re-appointed as Deputy Chair of the Boundary Commission for Wales effective until 31 December 2013.

Legal Aid

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): It is 10 years since the Legal Services Commission (LSC) was established under the Access to Justice Act 1999. In that time there has been considerable change in the way that legal aid has been delivered, with a strong focus on ensuring that the people who need help most—the vulnerable in our society—have access to justice.

Legal aid expenditure amounts to £2.1 billion a year. This is comparably one of the most generous schemes in the world. Costs per head of population run at £38 per head[1] compared with £30 in Scotland, £36 in Northern Ireland and the following in comparable common law countries: £8 in the Republic of Ireland, £5 in Canada, £8 in New Zealand and £9 in Australia. In the current climate, it is even more important that this public money is managed efficiently and effectively. We have worked with the LSC to take necessary action to protect public funds and focus them on helping those in need.

One of the first steps is to conduct a review of legal aid and to consider ways in which the delivery of legal aid services might be improved. The Access to Justice Act (section 2) envisaged that the Government may eventually want to separate the Community Legal Service (CLS) and the Criminal Defence Service (CDS) to ensure that CLS resources are not swallowed up by the CDS and that the latter plays its full part in delivering an efficient and effective criminal justice system.

I have invited Sir Ian Magee to conduct a review. The terms of reference of the review are as follows:

> To review the existing delivery and governance arrangements of the legal aid system, and make recommendations that:
>
> explore the separation of the CDS and CLS and options for doing so effectively and efficiently should that be the recommended way forward;
>
> provide for effective and transparent financial management of both funds and their administration;
>
> provide for effective ministerial accountability and policy direction in respect of both the CDS and CLS, while continuing to ensure that every application to the CLS and CDS funds are decided fairly, within the criteria, at arms length from Government;
>
> identify appropriate delivery models for both the CDS and CLS and their relationship with the Ministry.

In addition to this review, the Ministry of Justice and the LSC are reviewing the current financial and governance frameworks to ensure that where there are any potential opportunities for immediate improvement, these are taken forward without delay.

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[1] Costs per head for "legal aid" are shown as much lower in most mainland European systems but their costs are not comparable with common law countries because the systems are so different and many costs attributed to legal aid in common law jurisdictions are subsumed within the total costs of the judicial systems in mainland Europe—see European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice: European Judicial Systems.

HM Courts Service Estates

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Government are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to justice and that justice is provided locally. We need to ensure that we have a modern court estate that is properly aligned to where services are needed, that the estate is efficiently utilised and that courts have the necessary facilities for victims and witnesses and to allow proper access for court users with disabilities.

The Government must always look to ensure there is an effective and efficient system to deliver justice so that we can continue to provide these vital public services at a level that offers real value for money for the taxpayer. Having carefully considered this, and following a recommendation from the HM Courts Service Board, I am today announcing our intention to consult on the closure of the following courts:

Bourne Magistrates Court
Bridport Magistrates Court
Cheshunt Magistrates Court
Cullompton Magistrates Court
Dorking Magistrates Court
Eastleigh Magistrates Court
Gainsborough Magistrates Court
Havant Magistrates Court
Launceston Magistrates Court
Leigh County Court
Louth Magistrates Court
Midenhall Magistrates Court
Minehead Magistrates Court
Sherbone Magistrates Court
Sleaford Magistrates Court
Stamford Magistrates Court
Wantage Magistrates Court
Wareham Magistrates Court

Wells Magistrates Court
Whitby Magistrates Court
Widnes Magistrates Court

The majority of these courts are currently significantly under utilised. Local representative groups, including members of the judiciary and HMCS staff, have been consulted and as a result decisions have already been taken not to list any work in these courts. In all cases there are alternative courts within a reasonable travelling distance where services will continue to be provided.

It is right that going to court should not place undue stress on the victims and witnesses of crime; Her Majesty's Courts Service has made significant improvements in the facilities for these court users over recent years, these improvements have helped to make giving evidence in court less stressful. We need to ensure that court buildings have suitable facilities for all court users. Many of the courts listed above do not have adequate facilities for victims and witnesses; in addition a number of the buildings do not allow adequate access for disabled court users. Due to the low utilisation rates and in some courts, physical constraints, I do not believe it would provide good value for money to spend taxpayers' money to bring these buildings up to the required standard at the taxpayers' expense.

I am keen to hear the views of court users and other interested parties; the consultation exercises will allow them to express their views on the proposals. I will make a decision on how to proceed after consideration of those representations.

Following an earlier consultation exercise on the future of Nelson County Court, I have decided that the court should be closed. I have come to that conclusion based on the arguments set out in the consultation paper and the view of the majority respondents that the court should close.

Today we are also publishing a discussion paper of the future provision of magistrates court in London. This paper is aimed at court users and other people affected by the provision of magistrates courts services in London having regard to the possibilities presented by virtual courts. It will form a basis for HMCS managers to discuss how magistrates court services should best be arranged to meet the needs of the communities they serve. The conclusions from this will form the basis of a formal consultation on a proposed way forward. The paper is available on the Ministry of Justice website (http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications.htm). Together these proposals set out a positive step forward to ensuring that HMCS provides sufficient accessibility whilst directing and prioritising its resources to where they most matter for the communities it serves.

The consultation documents and the response to the consultation paper on Nelson County Court will be published on the Ministry of Justice website. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses, and in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I am pleased to announce the appointment of four new Commissioners to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. Anna Carragher, Lyn McBriar, Dermot Nesbitt and Peter Sheridan took up office on 21 September 2009

Equality for all is at the heart of the Government's vision of a modern, fairer society. The Equality Commission is a key institution of the Belfast Agreement and plays a vital role in protecting and promoting equality for all members of our diverse society in Northern Ireland. The Commission is now marking its 10th anniversary and it is facing new challenges, not least working with an increasingly diverse, multicultural society in a testing economic environment.

I am confident that the four new Commissioners bring a wealth of knowledge, skills and understanding, helping the Commission to meet the challenges ahead and build on their considerable achievements over the past 10 years.

TRANSPORT

Tier One UK Airports (Economic Regulation)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> In March this year, the Government published their consultation on reforming the economic regulation of airports. This contained a package of proposals to strengthen the financial resilience of major airports, support investment and ensure the continuation of operations in the event of financial difficulties for airport operators.
>
> These are challenging and uncertain times for the aviation sector. Following representations, I am bringing forward announcements on the financial elements of the review to help provide as much certainty as possible for both the industry and its investors. We will be responding to the other elements of the consultation later this year.
>
> To this end, I can announce that the Government will introduce, as soon as parliamentary time will allow:
>
> A new duty on the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to ensure that airports can finance their licensed activities. This will sit as a supplementary duty to a primary duty to promote the interests of existing and future passengers.
>
> A package of licence conditions to introduce financial ring-fencing. Following careful analysis of the evidence, the Government have concluded that the costs of introducing certain elements of the ring fence would exceed the benefits. There will therefore be derogations for those elements of the ring fence that would cut across existing financing arrangements.
>
> A licence condition requiring airport operators to maintain a minimum creditworthiness.
>
> Adequate protection for consumers is our priority, so I can also announce that we will consult further before the end of year on the following additional measures which will further improve the resilience of major airports:
>
> The possible introduction of a licence condition requiring airport operators to produce and maintain a continuity of service plan, setting out how the airport could continue to serve passengers through an insolvency procedure, thus further reducing the risk of airport closure.
>
> A mechanism for the regulator (CAA) to "switch on" and "switch off" ring-fencing provisions. The regulator might decide to switch on ring-fencing if circumstances were to change and where the benefits outweigh the costs, for example because an operator had moved from a secured to an unsecured financing structure.

These measures replace the introduction of a Special Administration regime proposed in the consultation document which I have decided not to proceed with. The March consultation was clear that these proposals would only be taken forward if it could be shown that the costs of introducing such a scheme were not excessive.

Following careful analysis of the consultation evidence, the Government have concluded that the implementation costs of introducing Special Administration would outweigh the benefits, and could significantly restrict airport operators' ability to commit to ongoing investment in the airport infrastructure, adversely affecting passengers. Given this and the relatively low risk of airport closure upon insolvency, we have concluded that the measures better serve the interests of passengers.

This announcement today supports the sustained investment by airport operators and protects the interest of passengers. We will publish our response to the remaining elements of the March consultation later this year including a summary of consultation responses and a full impact assessment. At the same time we will begin our consultation on the possible additional measures that I have outlined.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 14 October 2009

CABINET OFFICE

Ministerial Responsibilities

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and for the Olympics, and Paymaster General (Tessa Jowell): I have today published a revised edition of the "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" (October 2009). Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and the Vote Office.

The list can also be accessed at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilites/

TREASURY

Corporate Taxation

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am today announcing the Government's intention to present to Parliament in the next Finance Bill a change to the rules on how groups of companies are taxed when they buy back their issued debt at a discount to the amount borrowed.

At present where a debtor company is released from its debt liability for less than the amount borrowed it is taxed on the difference between the amount it has borrowed and the amount it pays to be released from its liability. In order to prevent avoidance of the charge the same rules apply where a company connected to the debtor—for instance a fellow group member—instead buys the debt from the creditor. However, in order to help genuine company rescues, there is an exception to this anti-avoidance rule in certain circumstances.

The circumstances are:

where the creditor company is arm's length to the purchaser; and

where the purchasing company was not connected to the debtor any time during the three-year period ending 12 months before the purchase.

In the present financial conditions many banks and other businesses have issued debt that is trading at a discount to the amount borrowed.

Many, for good commercial reasons, are seeking to buy their debt back from the market. However some are taking advantage of the rules set up to help company rescues in order to avoid being taxed on the profit they make when their debt is cancelled for less than the amount they borrowed. They do this by setting up a new company to buy the debt.

The Government therefore propose to change the rules, which will apply in relation to any debt buybacks that take place from today to ensure that only those debt buybacks that are undertaken as part of genuine corporate rescues will benefit from the buyback profits not being subject to tax.

The changes proposed are that the conditions requiring the purchasing company not to be connected with the debtor during a prescribed period will be replaced by the following three conditions:

there must have been a change in ownership of the debtor in the period of 12 months before the debt purchase;

the debt purchase must have been intrinsic to the change of ownership; and

before the change of ownership, the debtor must have been suffering severe financial problems.

Even if these conditions are met such that the debtor is not taxed on the discount at the time of the buyback, any future cancellation of the debt by the new creditor will result in the debtor being taxed on the previously untaxed discount.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ordnance Survey (Performance Targets 2009-10)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin): The following performance targets have been set for Ordnance Survey in 2009-10:

Ordnance Survey will report externally against a set of agency performance monitors as required of all executive agencies in Government:

To achieve an operating profit before exceptional items, interest and dividends of £14.6 million for the financial year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

Some 99.6 per cent. of significant real-world features greater than six months old are represented in the database.

To achieve a free cash flow before exceptional items of £12.5 million for the financial year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

To reduce the underlying cost base by 3 per cent. between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.

To achieve a customer experience index score of at least 80 per cent.

These targets reflect Ordnance Survey's new business strategy as announced at Budget 2009.

Connecting Communities

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): I can today inform Parliament about a plan to reinvigorate and connect with those communities that are feeling the pressure from recession most acutely and ensure they are well placed to share fully in future prosperity and emerge stronger and more cohesive.

In recent years substantial investment has transformed large parts of the country. But this investment has taken place against a background of wider changes which has left some communities feeling under pressure.

Around 100 areas of the country have been identified as the focus of a targeted programme of work that will focus on alleviating those pressures and making sure that real help is available.

Practical actions delivered on estates and streets will focus on developing a real insight into what is happening in those communities and introduce changes that will address local people's concerns, reconnect them with jobs and tackle the real and perceived sense of unfairness some people are feeling.

I can today name the first 27 neighbourhoods across 21 local authorities that will be involved in the initial phase of this £12 million programme of local intensive engagement that will connect communities.

Each area will draw up specific plans to address local challenges. While the responses will vary from place to place they are likely to focus on three key areas:

> *Leadership*— The quality of leadership will be critical to success in this area. Complex challenges require exceptional leadership. In order to allow people to feel they are being heard, there is a need for honest and open debate to explain how decisions are made. Where decisions are contentious leaders need the skills and confidence to challenge misconceptions and respond with action where needed. There will be support for training leaders; and also the other front line staff and community activists who need also to know and shape the emerging strategy for each area.
>
> *Giving people a voice*— Local people must have the chance to express their worries and know that someone will act on their behalf. I want to enable an open debate about what the challenges really are in these areas—even if this raises difficult and uncomfortable issues. This means giving people the space to air their grievances to political and community leaders. Alongside measures to increase the visibility of more formal leaders, individuals will be encouraged to act as community champions or tenants and have a bigger say in local issues. This will help build up the confidence and self-esteem of residents so that they feel that they can regain control over their estates, their lives and their futures.
>
> *Increased opportunities*— More particularly, raising awareness of the opportunities already available in the area—whether that is investment and regeneration, jobs and skills, childcare and youth services, education and healthcare, or efforts to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. Measures like the Future Jobs Fund need to be delivered in ways which clearly respond to local priorities, shaped by the people whose lives it will affect.

The areas have been identified by examining a range of hard and soft data around cohesion, deprivation and crime, perceived unfairness in the allocation of resources and feedback from people working locally.

Connecting Communities Areas

GO Region	*LA*	*ILE Area*
East	Broxbourne	Bury Green Ward
	King's Lynn	North Lynn
East Midlands	Leicester	New Parks
	Lincoln	Abbey Ward
	Nottingham	Aspley
London	Barking & Dagenham	River Becontree Thames Heath
	Bromley	Cray Valley & Mottingham
	Bexley	Colyers & North End
North East	Gateshead	Felling
	Sunderland	Castle, Redhill & Southwick
North West	Blackburn with Darwen	Little Harwood
	Cheshire West and Chester	Ellesmere Port
	Cumbria	Cleator Moor
	Liverpool	Speke
West Midlands	Birmingham	Kingstanding, Stockland Green & Erdington
	Birmingham	Druids Heath, Brandwood Ward
	Birmingham	Bartley Green & Weoley
	Stoke	Blurton
	Stoke	Burslem & Shelton
Southeast	Milton Keynes	Tinkers Bridge, Woughton Ward
South West	North Somerset	Western-Super-Mare – Central Ward
	Poole	Bourne Valley, Rossmore
	Swindon	Park Ward, Walcot East
Yorkshire & Humber	N Lincolnshire	Caistor Road Estate, Barton Ward
	Swindon	Park Ward, Walcot East
Yorkshire & Humber	N Lincolnshire	Caistor Road Estate, Barton Ward

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Minister with responsibility for marine and the natural environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) and the Minister with responsibility for food, farming and environment, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) will represent the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 19 and 20 October.

There are a number of items on the agenda relating to agriculture and fisheries which are of significant interest to the United Kingdom. Discussions will take place on the following:

> the dairy market;
>
> placing on the market of products from genetically modified maize;
>
> EU/Norway annual fisheries consultations for 2010;
>
> control system for ensuring compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy;
>
> 2010 fishing opportunities for fish stocks in the Baltic Sea;
>
> marketing standards for poultry meat; and.
>
> health check corrections

There are currently two items under any other business—renewal of fishing fleet under the European fisheries fund regulation from Lithuania; and a state aid request from Poland for the purchasing of agricultural land.

Also scheduled is a ministerial lunch on 19 October to discuss 'Policy Coherence for Development, and in particular those aspects relating to food security and FAO reform'.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 15 October 2009

TREASURY

Consolidated Statement (EU Funds)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The Government announced to the House of Commons in November 2006 that, as part of its work to improve the accountability of EU funds, HM Treasury would prepare an annual consolidated statement on the use of funds from the budget of the European Communities (EU funds) in the United Kingdom. In line with this commitment, we are today laying before Parliament the second of these statements for the year ending 31 March 2008, along with the Comptroller and Auditor General's (C&AG) audit opinion and report.

Our aim is to strengthen the audit and Parliamentary scrutiny of the UK's use of EU funds, which will help detect any weaknesses in the UK's management of these funds so that they can be effectively and rapidly tackled.

The C&AG's positive opinion on regularity clearly shows that the management of EU funds by UK authorities during the period covered by the statement has been sound, and that there has been no evidence of material irregularity in the payments made to beneficiaries. The Government welcome this finding.

The C&AG'S opinion is that this is true and fair except for debtor, creditor, cash balances and the treatment of provisions. It is clear therefore that more needs to be done to improve the consistency with which EU funds are accounted for and recorded across the UK. The Government continue to work to ensure these accounting issues are addressed. Being able to make this type of improvement was a key motivating factor behind producing this statement.

The Government also hope this statement and the C&AG's audit opinion will be helpful to the European Court of Auditors and the Commission when they are performing their own audits and controls; and that the statement and the C&AG's audit opinion will encourage similar initiatives from other EU member states, whose contributions to improving financial reporting and management across the EU are also important.

ECOFIN (1-2 October 2009)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) was held in Gothenburg on 1-2 October 2009.

The Informal began with a discussion of the design of exit strategies from fiscal support measures to European economies. Ministers agreed that design of such a strategy was essential for planning for the future, although emphasised that recovery is still fragile and full implementation of the current support measures must continue. Ministers then held a general discussion on the economic and financial situation, including an assessment of the outcomes of the Pittsburgh G20 summit. ECOFIN also held a first round of views on the Commission's draft legislation proposals for reform of financial supervision and regulation in the EU.

The Informal Council then considered the issues around the financing of climate change in preparation for the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen in December. The October ECOFIN and European Council will consider this issue further in preparing the EU's input into the UNFCCC. Finally, Ministers addressed the challenges facing European labour markets.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan Force Composition

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): Further to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's statement on Afghanistan on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 299-303, I can announce that, in addition to those units named in my written ministerial statement of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 24WS on the roulement of 19 Light Brigade by 11 Light Brigade, the following units will deploy to Afghanistan:

1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, which will now deploy as a complete unit;

Elements of 30 Signal Regiment;

Elements of 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border);

Elements of 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The deployment of these units will allow us to uplift our force levels to 9,000 troops on an enduring basis.

As the Prime Minister explained in his statement, UK force levels will be further increased to 9,500 troops if certain conditions are met. This uplift would be provided by the deployment of 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh (The Royal Welch Fusiliers).

Defence Acquisition (Independent Review)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): In December 2008, my predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton), asked Bernard Gray to undertake a review to identify improvements that we could make in the acquisition of defence equipment. I am today publishing Mr. Gray's report and placing a copy in the Library of the House. I am very grateful to Bernard Gray for the effort he has devoted to this, the analysis he has produced, and for his support in developing with my Department proposals to implement many of his recommendations.

This is not a new issue. As Bernard Gray's report highlights, all countries with significant defence capabilities face the same inherent complexities of military acquisition and—over many decades—have had to deal with cost and time over-runs. Indeed, as the report says, many of our allies are complimentary about the UK's efforts to drive reform in this area and model their systems on ours.

In the last 12 years, we have implemented a succession of initiatives to improve acquisition processes, including "Smart Acquisition", the defence industrial strategy and more recently the defence acquisition change programme. These have had a significant impact on performance, as the National Audit Office has recognised in successive reports. At its best, my Department's project management is very good indeed. As the report observes, there are dedicated people at all levels in the Ministry of Defence, and among our suppliers, with a strong commitment to ensure the services have the equipment they need to deliver success on current operations and in the future. The system works best when the need is most urgent. We have successfully provided £4.1 billion worth of equipment to theatre in Iraq and Afghanistan through urgent operational requirements since operations began. Our people, military and civilian, can be proud of that achievement. And the service chiefs have made clear that our service personnel are never asked to undertake missions unless we are fully satisfied that they have the right equipment to do the job.

However, the Gray report also brings out, through analysis of a sample of individual projects, the problems which still persist. These include not only the tendency of programmes to cost more and take longer to deliver than was initially estimated, but the further cost growth to which this gives rise and the pressure it places on limited resources—even in a period when the defence budget as a whole has grown substantially in real terms. It points to remaining skills gaps and to shortcomings in the existing arrangements for managing the equipment programme. And it argues for regular defence reviews to provide a strategic context for decisions on the equipment programme.

To some extent the difficulties we and others face in estimating the cost and time to deliver projects reflect the fact that much modern defence equipment is at the leading edge of technology and is constantly having to adapt to meet evolving military requirements. Providing our armed forces with the best involves a degree of technological risk and uncertainty. But there are steps we can and must take, in the light of the Gray report, to build on earlier reform and deliver a radical improvement in performance.

First, I have already announced that we will undertake a strategic defence review immediately after the general election. Preparatory work is already underway, and I intend to publish a Green Paper early in the new year. We will also examine legislative frameworks for implementing Bernard Gray's recommendation that a strategic defence review be conducted early in the term of each new Parliament.

Secondly, we will work to adjust our equipment programme to bring it into balance with future requirements and the likely availability of resources, through the current planning round and in due course the strategic defence review.

Thirdly, we will plan equipment expenditure to a longer time frame, with a 10-year indicative planning horizon for equipment spending agreed with the Treasury, and will increase transparency by publishing that planning horizon and an annual assessment of the affordability of our programme.

Fourthly, we have already strengthened board-level governance within the Ministry of Defence by establishing a new sub-committee of the defence board, as recommended by Mr. Gray, chaired by the permanent secretary as accounting officer and charged with determining, for agreement by the board and Ministers, an equipment plan that is aligned with strategy, affordable and realistic.

Fifthly, we will improve the way we cost projects in the equipment plan, using better and more sophisticated techniques applied more consistently, and ensuring that investment decisions are based on the most reliable available forecasts. We will also improve the management of risk across the programme.

Sixthly, we will introduce stronger controls over the entry of new projects into the equipment programme, and over changes in performance, cost and timing of individual projects.

Seventhly, we will sharpen the business relationship between Ministry of Defence head office, the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) organisation, and the service commands, by further clarifying roles and responsibilities, and by establishing new arrangements to provide greater visibility of project management costs in DE&S to the Capability Sponsor in head office.

Finally, we will accelerate the improvement of key skills (including in cost forecasting and programme management) in DE&S and the Ministry of Defence head office.

All of these changes are consistent with Bernard Gray's main recommendations. I do not intend to take up his suggestion to establish DE&S as a Government-owned, contractor-operated entity, to put it more at arm's length from the rest of the Ministry of Defence. The Government have thought about this carefully, but we are not convinced that such a change would ultimately lead to better outcomes for the armed forces or defence generally. Having the DE&S as fully part of defence ensures a close working relationship with the military. Equipment acquisition is core business for my Department, and we have to get it right.

Based on these proposals, I intend to publish a wider, more detailed strategy for acquisition reform in the new year, to contribute to work on the strategic defence review. I am delighted that Bernard Gray has agreed to work with us on this.

JUSTICE

Data Protection Act 1998

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I am today publishing a consultation paper on introducing custodial penalties for offences related to obtaining, disclosing, or selling personal data committed under section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998. The Government are particularly seeking views from the Information Commissioner and media organisations, but responses to the consultation are welcome from anyone with an interest. The proposals will potentially affect sentencing in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, so this consultation is UK wide.

The Information Commissioner's office has been monitoring the illegal trade in personal data since 2006, when the then Information Commissioner made his report to Parliament "What Price Privacy? The unlawful trade in confidential personal information". The present Information Commissioner called on the Government in September to introduce custodial sentences for offences committed under section 55, which were provided for by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. The Government hope that this consultation exercise will reveal the present extent of the illegal trade in personal data.

At the same time, the Government have no intention of curtailing responsible investigative journalism, so we are also consulting on commencing the new defence under section 55 for those who can show that they acted for the purposes of journalism, art and literature with a view to publishing journalistic, literary or artistic material, in the reasonable belief that the obtaining, disclosing or procuring was in the public interest.

The Government are committed to increasing the public's confidence in the way personal data are handled. If responses to this consultation demonstrate the need, we will bring forward an order to introduce custodial sentences for the unlawful obtaining of personal data.

Copies of the consultation paper and associated impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Department's website at: www.justice.gov.uk

Royal Prerogative

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The report of the Government's review of the royal prerogative is published today. This follows the commitment made in the 'Governance of Britain' Green Paper to undertake a wider review of the remaining prerogative executive powers and to consider whether, in the longer term, these powers should be codified and put on a statutory basis. The review was carried out as part of the Government's constitutional reforms to rebalance power between the people, Parliament and Government, by restricting the power of the executive. The reforms are designed to give the people, through Parliament, a greater ability to hold Government to account.

The internal scoping exercise presaged in the 'Governance of Britain' White Paper has made it possible for the Government to publish, for the first time, a consolidated list of prerogative powers, as identified by Government Departments. The list is annexed to the report. Copies of the report, "Review of the Executive Royal Prerogative Powers: Final Report", have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

As well as identifying the main prerogative powers available to Government Ministers, the report summarises the reforms already made or in train as part of the Government's programme of constitutional reform. It enumerates changes already made with regard to honours nominations, senior public and Church appointments. It lists important reforms to some of the main prerogative powers, concerning the ratification of treaties and the organisation of the civil service, which are included in the Government's Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill.

The report also refers to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, when he introduced that Bill to the House on 20 July, and it repeats the Government's commitment to lay before the House later this year a draft of a detailed resolution setting out procedures to approve any deployment of the armed forces in armed conflict overseas.

Having set the scene, the report assesses the case for replacing or amending other prerogative powers and explains in detail why the Government have concluded that additional legislation is not warranted in most areas. However, when announcing that Michael Shields had been granted a free pardon on 9 September 2009, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor indicated that he would review the way in which applications for free pardons would be handled in the future.

In line with these conclusions, the report's format is not that of a formal consultation paper; nevertheless comments are welcome and the report requests these by 8 January 2010.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I attended the first Transport Council of the Swedish presidency, in Luxembourg on 9 October.

There was a policy debate on the Commission's Communication "A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system", which identifies trends, challenges, and policy objectives and is intended as a consultation document for transport policy over the next 10 years, feeding into the next White Paper in 2010. All member states intervened, many of them drawing attention to the need to support recovery from the current economic crisis while still tackling climate change. The UK was among member states which called for simplification of rules and better integration of policy. We also identified the biggest challenge facing transport as reducing CO_2 emissions, while supporting economic prosperity. Implementation of existing policies was critical, and technology must be used to contribute to clearly defined goals.

The Council agreed a complementary negotiating mandate for the negotiation of a road transport agreement between the EU and the Western Balkan partners. This was supplementary to the earlier and principal mandate adopted on 12 June 2008. The presidency expressed the hope that the negotiations would be completed before the end of the year. The road transport negotiating mandate is acceptable to the UK. We entered a statement in the minutes, welcoming the work done on this agreement, which will facilitate market integration between the Western Balkans and the EU, and noting that the granting of this mandate for the Commission to negotiate with the Western Balkan partners does not affect the existing division of competence between the community and the member states.

The Council reached a political agreement on a regulation on the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway. The proposal seeks to provide new rights to passengers with reduced mobility and to enhance general passenger rights, while not adding significant burdens to industry, in particular SMEs. The agreed text of the regulation was acceptable to the UK.

There was a progress report on a proposed directive on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the member states. This amending directive aims to ease administrative burdens on international shipping operating within the community, an aim which we support. The presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament with a view to reaching a First Reading agreement.

Council agreed to a decision to enable Norway and Iceland to join the EU-US air transport agreement, noting the market-opening benefits. This decision will be finalised by formal adoption at a future Council. The UK supports the decision.

The Council adopted two decisions authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Brazil for an agreement on aviation safety issues and negotiations with the US on a memorandum of co-operation in civil aviation research and development. The UK supports both negotiating mandates.

Under AOB, the Commissioner spoke on the carriage of liquids in hand luggage at EU airports and a possible way to proceed in April 2010, when the current restrictions are due to expire. He then gave details of his three step transitional proposal. This involves alleviations for third country transfer passengers, potentially from next April, and then introduction of technological checks by 2012 in large airports and by 2014 for smaller airports. This was the first opportunity for EU Transport Ministers to collectively consider the Commissioner's proposal. I was one of many Ministers strongly supporting an extension of the existing liquids restrictions after April 2010, until such a time as technological solutions which provide robust detection performance and a better passenger experience are ready for deployment. We are keen to move from the current restriction-based system to one using new screening technologies but only when we are convinced that they can meet the challenge of ensuring the utmost levels of security for passengers, while striving to improve their air travel experience. Aviation security experts will now consider the detail of the Commission proposal, which will then be subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny (by the European Parliament). DfT Ministers will be writing to the Lords and Commons Scrutiny Committees shortly.

Also under AOB, the presidency and Commission reported on the EGNOS and Galileo satellite navigation programmes. They declared that the EGNOS (European geostationary navigation overlay system) signal, which improves the accuracy of GPS, had officially started operations on 1 October. On Galileo, the Commission said that it plans to have all the procurement contracts with suppliers let by the end of 2010, with the first two being let by the end of 2009. It is expected that the first satellite launches will take place in 2012 and that a Galileo service would be available from 2013. The UK is continuing to work with the presidency, the Commission and other member states to progress the Galileo programme and ensure that we remain focussed on meeting this timetable.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 16 October 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Auditory Standards for School Buildings

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Mr. Vernon Coaker): Good acoustics are essential to a successful learning environment for all children, particularly for those with special hearing requirements, and my Department works hard to achieve this, in partnership with other Government Departments such as Communities and Local Government and with the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS). I should place on record my appreciation to the NDCS for their commitment to breaking down the barriers faced by deaf children.

To continue our drive for improvement, I am announcing a package of measures designed to ensure that school buildings have good acoustics and that the needs of those with special hearing requirements are met.

My Department and Communities and Local Government are taking a number of actions to improve acoustics in schools. These include:

Partnerships for Schools (PFS) will ensure, through the Approvals Process, that all future funding for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) schools will not be approved without contractual commitment to meeting appropriate standards through acoustic test certification.

In local authorities where schools have already been constructed with BSF funding, a certificate of compliance with acoustic standards for the most recently funded school, or plan demonstrating how that will be achieved, will be required before further funding is released to that LA.

My Department will publish a design practice note for clients by December 2010, emphasising the importance of good acoustics, including a strong recommendation for testing and reminding them of funding conditions under the BSF programme that I set out earlier in this statement.

My Department and CLG will write jointly to every building control body (BCB) in England and Wales, reminding them of the importance of acoustics in all schools, including primary schools, especially for pupils with impaired hearing. We will also remind Building Control Bodies that where acoustic testing is being carried out to satisfy requirements to secure funding, they should use this data to assess compliance with the regulations.

Where proposals are being considered to adopt alternative performance standards to those set out in Building Bulletin 93, we will also ask BCBs to alert applicants to the latest guidance on acoustics and ask them not to approve alternative performance standards unless a full and proper case has been made in accordance with Building Bulletin 93.

In addition, my Department will:

Produce an evaluation of the acoustic environment of up to 10 schools and disseminate the lessons learnt by March 2010; and

Widen the scope of our Spaces for Personalised Learning project to include a detailed consideration of acoustics in innovative learning spaces with immediate effect.

Go out to public consultation during 2010 on an updated version of "Building Bulletin 93: Acoustic design of Schools: A Design Guide", the key document for ensuring good acoustic standards in schools. This will take on board improvements already proposed following extensive stakeholder consultation, as well as any findings from the investigatory work we will carry out.

CLG is due to commence an evaluation of part E of the Building Regulations later this year. This is the first stage of a full review of part E that could lead to revised regulations and guidance in 2013. The NDCS will be asked to contribute to this process and my Department will be fully involved on any aspects relating to schools to ensure consistency with my Department's guidance.

Finally, in the light of the major study that the NDCS has undertaken into recent testing in schools, I have asked DCSF officials to work with CLG officials to examine the implications of introducing mandatory acoustic testing in all new schools. I have asked for this advice by June 2010. Depending on the outcome of this work, it would be our intention to issue a formal consultation on the question of mandatory testing.

My officials will place details of these proposals on teachernet.

HEALTH

Pandemic Influenza

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): The Government's response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Report on Pandemic Influenza has today been laid before Parliament (Cm 7722).

The Committee's report was published on 28 July of this year. The report highlights a range of issues relating to pandemic influenza planning in general and to the Government's response to the current swine flu pandemic. The report focuses on:

"end-to-end" testing of planning, particularly in the NHS;

the design and capacity of the National Pandemic Flu Service;

critical care capacity in the NHS;

support for health and social care workers during a pandemic;

communications to the public and healthcare workers; and

vaccine supply and distribution.

The Government response addresses the points raised by the Committee individually, setting out the work and planning undertaken prior to the outbreak of swine flu and the reasoning behind the various stages of the response to the pandemic.

Our response clearly demonstrates that United Kingdom planning prior to the swine flu pandemic made the UK one of the best-prepared countries in the world, a fact widely recognised in the international community. With one of the largest stockpiles of antivirals in the world and every NHS organisation with a pandemic contingency plan in place, we were in a very strong position to face the threat of swine flu when it emerged earlier this year.

Our response to the Committee's report also testifies to the tremendous work that has been done since the outbreak of swine flu—at the front line and behind the scenes—in trying to limit the spread of the initial wave of infection and in preparing ourselves for a second wave this autumn or winter. On behalf of the Government, I would like to thank all those involved in helping to mitigate our worst fears, which a pandemic inevitably brings.

The staff of the national health service, Health Protection Agency, the devolved Administrations and Government Departments, in collaboration with those from many other organisations, responded tremendously to a very difficult situation. We were able to limit the spread of the virus from the initial cases entering the UK and cope with very significant levels of infection in some areas during the initial wave.

We now have further stockpiles of antivirals and antibiotics and we have tested the resilience of NHS planning in exercise peak practice. We are also beginning to receive the first batches of a new swine flu vaccine, which will be given initially to those most at risk and to health and social care workers, in order to minimise the potential harm that the virus could still cause. This is a very significant development and one that the Government greatly welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the Government's thanks to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee for its work on this subject. Scrutiny by such a distinguished group of experts has been a valuable part of the development of our policy.

Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): I am making this statement on behalf of my hon. Friends, the Minister of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley North (Mr. Austin) and myself.

Today, we have placed in the Library the Government response to the "Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (SAGE) First Interim Assessment: Power Lines and Property, Wiring in Homes and Electrical Equipment in Homes" published in 2007. SAGE is a group of stakeholders representing sectors engaged with electricity transmission, regulation, property valuation, academic research and public concern campaigning. The remit of SAGE is to explore the implications for a precautionary approach to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (ELF EMF) and to make practical recommendations to Government. This first assessment considered two sources of EMF: high voltage overhead power lines and electrical wiring and equipment inside the home. SAGE is jointly funded by the Department of Health, the National Grid Company, the Energy Networks Association and the charity Children with Leukaemia.

SAGE made recommendations for relatively low-cost and proportionate action in four key areas. The Government have decided to take forward these measures proposed by SAGE on:

i. optimal phasing of high voltage overhead power lines;
ii. electrical appliances in homes;
iii. household wiring practices; and
iv. the provision of advice to the public on ELF EMF.

SAGE also put forward an option to introduce a moratorium on building new homes and schools near high voltage power lines and new high voltage power lines near homes and schools. However, SAGE's cost benefit analysis does not support this option. The Government therefore consider this option to be disproportionate given the evidence base on the potential health risks arising from exposure to ELF EMF and has no plans to take it forward.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will take forward recommendations relating to planning, buildings and house wiring. The Department of Energy and Climate Change will take forward recommendations on high voltage electricity transmission. The Department of Health will take forward provision of health protection information about electromagnetic fields and support of health risk research.

Copies of the Government's response are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 19 October 2009

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Correction to Written Answer

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): I would like to inform the House that a written answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. David Evennett), was incorrect. The hon. Member's question tabled on 2 September 2009 asked what representations were made to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change concerning the power cut at Dartford Creek on 20 July.

In my written answer I said there had been no representations but my right hon. Friend had in fact received letters from the hon. Member for North Thanet (Mr. Gale), dated 28 September 2009, the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford and my hon. Friend the Member for Dartford (Dr. Stoate), dated 3 August 2009. Regrettably, these letters were not taken into account due to an administrative error within my Department when compiling the answer. I can confirm that my officials are reviewing the handling procedures for dealing with parliamentary correspondence to ensure that this does not happen again.

I apologise to the House and the three hon. Members for this error.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

UK Bovine Eradication Plan (2010)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): On Friday 16 October the European Commission's Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCOFCAH) agreed to provide up to €10 million of EU funding to support the UK's bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication programme for 2010. Their decision to provide financial support to the UK is welcome assistance to our efforts to tackle this worrying, complex and costly disease.

The UK eradication plan, submitted to the European Commission on 15 September, sets out the planned programme of TB surveillance, control and eradication for England, Wales and Northern Ireland during 2010 (Scotland is not required to submit a plan having achieved officially TB free status). The EU funding can be used to offset the costs of TB testing and compensation for cattle slaughtered within this programme. DEFRA will work with the administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland to agree how this funding will be shared.

I would like to take this opportunity also to acknowledge the excellent work of the TB eradication group for England, whose recommendations on strengthening the eradication programme in England helped ensure the approval of the UK's plan. The group's first report has recently been published and I am placing copies in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Judicial Review: Binyam Mohamed

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): On Friday 16 October, the High Court handed its fifth judgment in the Binyam Mohamed case. We are deeply disappointed by the judgment, which concludes that a summary of US intelligence material, prepared by the judges, should be put into the public domain against the clear and express wishes of the United States. We will be appealing in the strongest possible terms.

Since we secured the release of the material at issue to Mr. Mohamed's lawyers by the US Government last October, for use in his defence before the US military commission, the only remaining issue for the Court was whether they should order public disclosure of seven summary paragraphs of intelligence material received from the US about his treatment while in Pakistan in 2002.

The Court in its fourth judgment, handed down on 4 February, acknowledged my assessment, made after careful consideration of the US position and considered advice from our intelligence agencies and other senior UK officials that making the seven paragraphs public against the wishes of the US would cause harm to our national security.

And on 23 February, we succeeded in ensuring Mr. Mohamed's release from Guantanamo and his return to the UK, following strenuous efforts by the Government over the course of 18 months. The Court, throughout its judgments, has noted the "considerable efforts" made in this regard.

The Court subsequently reopened its fourth judgment on 6 May on the basis that it did not know whether the position of the Obama Administration regarding disclosure was the same as the Bush Administration's position, on which it had based its judgment. While there was indeed a new President and a new Administration in the US, my assessment of the risk to UK national security remained the same: that disclosure by a UK Court of a summary of US intelligence material will harm our national security. This assessment was again informed by correspondence from the Obama Administration—from both the CIA and the White House—as well as by my own discussions of this matter with Secretary of State Clinton. In making this assessment I was again carefully advised by our intelligence agencies and other senior UK officials who are familiar with intelligence matters.

The conclusions reached in Friday's judgment were based on the premise that the principle of control of intelligence is not absolute. However, the principle is at the heart of all intelligence relationships: intelligence material communicated in confidence must be protected and cannot be released without the consent of the owner. However, we only share British intelligence with other countries on the basis that they will not disclose it without our express permission. The same inviolable principle applies to foreign intelligence shared with us. If this principle is undermined, the sharing of intelligence will most certainly be hindered. And at a time when the

UK faces a serious threat from international terrorism, the Government will not take risks with intelligence that is essential to national security and shared with us by many states.

The Court found that there was insufficient evidence to amount to a real risk that the US would reassess its intelligence sharing relationship or reduce its intelligence sharing relationship with the UK because there was no "explicit statement of consequences (of disclosure by the Court) by the Obama Administration". In my judgment, the comments of the Obama Administration, now made public, from the CIA, the President's National Security Adviser, and Secretary Clinton, show this not to be the case, and certainly not a risk worth taking. The seriousness of the Obama Administration's determination to uphold the principle of control which underpins decades of intelligence sharing between our two countries is there for all to see in the records of successive correspondence from and discussions with senior figures in the Obama Administration. In the Government's view, the Court has failed to accord proper weight to these factors or this assessment. On such a fundamental issue, it is right and proper that we appeal its judgment.

Hon. Members will be aware that in the course of this case, Mr. Mohamed made extremely serious allegations about his mistreatment while in detention. We have been completely clear on this issue: the British Government stand firmly against torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment; we do not condone collude, encourage or solicit it. We take all allegations of wrongdoing very seriously. Allegations that British officials were mixed up in wrongdoing in this case are now properly being investigated by the police. And Mr. Mohamed is also bringing a separate legal claim for damages against the Government. This will be addressed by the courts in due course.

In this case, however, the fundamental question at issue is not the mistreatment allegations made by Mr. Mohamed. It is about the principle underpinning intelligence sharing and the assessment of the risks to the United Kingdom's national security that would follow from a breach of this principle. Though I have no objection to the material becoming public, and have made this clear throughout, it is for the US to release its own material, not the UK.

I am determined that the vigour with which we fight this case will maintain the confidence of and send a clear message to all our intelligence partners across the world: the United Kingdom will protect the information that you share with us and uphold the principle that it is for you, not us or our courts, to decide if and when to release such material into the public domain.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ethiopia

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Twenty-five years after the famine in Ethiopia that killed over a million people, there is once again a growing drought and conflict-related humanitarian crisis in the horn of Africa.

Ethiopia accounts for the highest proportion of the humanitarian caseload in the region, with over 6 million people needing emergency assistance until the end of 2009. A third of these people live in the Somali region of Ethiopia. UNICEF estimates that there are currently over 500,000 acutely malnourished children in Ethiopia. A further 7.5 million vulnerable Ethiopians receive food and cash transfers under a Productive Safety Net Programme.[1]

The humanitarian outlook for 2010 is very worrying. The current humanitarian crisis could tip over into a humanitarian catastrophe. The prospects for the main harvest in November, which accounts for 90 per cent. of Ethiopia's annual food production, are a particular cause for concern. The late arrival of the rains and prolonged dry spells mean that the harvest is likely to be below average at best, with total crop failure a possibility in some parts of the country. A mid-season assessment is currently under way, and will provide a clearer picture of likely humanitarian needs into 2010.

I recently announced an additional, immediate £30 million of emergency aid for Ethiopia, to help make sure that there is sufficient food for those who need it. This additional finance takes the total emergency aid provided by DFID in Ethiopia this year to £49 million, making the UK the second largest bilateral humanitarian contributor after the US.

The additional £30 million included £15 million for the UN World Food Programme to ensure that 3.4 million people receive food rations in October, and £3 million for UNICEF to pay for the treatment of up to 40,000 children with acute malnutrition. Through a common humanitarian fund, we are also providing funds for NGOs to provide life saving nutrition, water and sanitation.

Alongside this emergency support, we are continuing to finance the Productive Safety Nets Programme (PSNP), which aims to protect and build the assets of vulnerable people and reduce their dependency on food aid in the medium-term. So far in 2009, we have contributed £35 million to the PSNP.

If the forthcoming main harvest does fail, significant scaling-up efforts by the Government of Ethiopia and the international community will be needed to prevent the current crisis becoming a catastrophe in 2010. We continue to encourage the Government of Ethiopia to: publish updated humanitarian requirements as quickly as possible following each assessment; acknowledge the size and scope of the crisis; initiate contingency planning for 2010 as soon as the outlook is known; and facilitate access for all humanitarian actors, particularly in the Somali region where humanitarian delivery is complicated by a long-running insurgency.

In recent months, the UK has stepped up its advocacy among international partners, urging them to contribute additional resources in sufficient time to avoid gaps in the humanitarian pipeline. And in Ethiopia, DFID continues to monitor the situation on the ground, and is leading efforts to improve the effectiveness of the response and secure better and faster access for UN agencies and NGOs to affected areas.

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[1] *[Official Report, 3 November 2009, Vol. 498, c. 8MC.]*

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 20 October 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Letter of Credit Guarantee Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): My noble Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Small Business (Lord Davies of Abersoch) has today made the following statement:

> ECGD, the UK export credit agency, today launched a letter of credit guarantee scheme to assist UK exporters by boosting the availability of short-term export finance.
>
> In the current economic climate, UK exporters are looking for secure forms of payment from their overseas buyers, particularly those in emerging economies. One of the most secure payment mechanisms for foreign trade transactions is a confirmed letter of credit. Under this a bank in the UK guarantees payment to its exporting customer, provided documents stipulated in the letter of credit issued by the buyer's overseas bank are presented to it. In this way, the UK exporter is able to eliminate the risk of non-payment by its buyer.
>
> By sharing with banks the credit risks associated with confirmed letters of credit, ECGD aims to increase the amount of short-term export finance which the banking sector can make available to UK exporters. This is particularly important at a time when the overall risk appetite of the trade market has been reduced due to the recent difficulties in the financial sector.
>
> To start with, five banks—Barclays, RBS, HSBC, Lloyds TSB and Standard Chartered—are supporting the scheme and will be making arrangements in the coming weeks to allow exporters to participate. It will cover 282 overseas banks in 36 export markets. More banks and export markets are expected to be added to the scheme.

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Luxembourg on 20 October 2009. The following items are on the agenda:

Preparation for the G20 Finance Ministers meeting

Ministers will discuss and agree a terms of reference which will form the basis of the EU's contribution to the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in St. Andrews on 6-7 November.

Preparation of the October European Council

a) Exit strategy

Following progress made at the October informal ECOFIN, Ministers will adopt a set of Council conclusions outlining the specifications for the possible design and timing of a co-ordinated fiscal exit strategy. The Government believe that while at this stage it is important to design such exit strategies, the priority is to ensure that the recovery is fully secured through full implementation of fiscal support measures.

b) Financing of climate change

Ministers will discuss and adopt conclusions on financing aspects of climate change in order to inform Heads at European Council. The UK is committed to making progress in advance of the negotiations at the United Nations framework for climate change convention in December.

c) Financial supervision: state of play

The presidency will give an oral report on the state of play of financial supervision in order to inform the European Council of progress made, in line with the request of the June European Council.

European Systemic Risk Board

Ministers will discuss the draft legislative proposals establishing the European systemic risk board (ESRB). As part of the wider package to improve financial regulation and supervision, the Government firmly support the establishment of the ESRB, which should assist with the identification of possible risks in the European and global financial systems.

Strengthening EU financial stability arrangements

Building on discussions at the informal ECOFIN, the Council will agree a set of conclusions on financial stability arrangements, including cross-border crisis management. The UK supports the conclusions as they stand, and welcomes efforts by the EU to ensure a co-ordinated approach to crisis prevention, management and resolution in order to promote financial stability.

Taxation: Anti-fraud agreements with third countries

a) Liechtenstein

Ministers will be invited to reach political agreement on a draft anti-fraud agreement now in its final stages of negotiation with Liechtenstein. The Government look forward to making further progress on anti-fraud agreements, as part of the wider good governance agenda, which links closely with work by the G20 on tax transparency and exchange of information.

b) Other third countries

The Council will be invited to consider a possible mandate for the Commission to open negotiations on anti-fraud agreements with Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland. The Government welcome progress in this area, which should lead to significant improvements in tax co-operation with these countries.

Equitable Life

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Liam Byrne): Last week, I promised to update the House on the Government's response to the judgment handed down on 15 October 2009 in the claim for judicial review brought by the Equitable Members' Action Group. The judgment was handed down last Thursday and I am now able to tell the House of the Government's proposed approach.

The claim challenged several aspects of the Government's response of 15 January 2009 to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report into the prudential regulation of Equitable Life. The Government have studied the terms of the judgment with care.

We welcome the Court's rejection of the challenge to our decision to establish a scheme to make ex gratia payments to policy holders who have suffered injustice. These payments will be to people who have suffered disproportionate impact, arising from maladministration and resulting in injustice accepted by the Government. The Court accepted the Government were entitled to seek Sir John Chadwick's advice in establishing the scheme, and recognised that it is legitimate to consider the public purse in its design.

The Court went on to identify three instances where it held that the Government have focussed too narrowly on the issue of regulatory compliance. It found that a wider interpretation of injustice was required, and thus ruled that the Government would need to reconsider their decision to reject the Ombudsman's findings of maladministration in relation to Finding 5 and of injustice in relation to Findings 2, 5, and parts of 4.

These three findings can be summarised as follows. Findings 2 and 4 relate to the failure to ask and resolve questions arising from Equitable Life's regulatory returns for 1990-1996, in particular in relation policies around interest and bonus rates. The Ombudsman's view was, broadly, that any policyholder relying on these returns, who suffered either a financial loss or a loss of opportunity to take an informed decision, suffered an injustice.

Finding 5 found that, with regard to returns filed in 1995, the Government Actuary's Department failed to ask for the necessary information from Equitable Life in order to ensure proper scrutiny of the company. The finding also found that the regulator failed to correct a misleading impression given by these returns when it knew independent observers were being misled.

The Government have decided that, in the interests of speed and their wish to act fairly for policyholders, they will accept the findings of maladministration in relation to Finding 5, and of injustice with regard to Findings 2, 5 and those parts of Finding 4 dealt with by the Court. I have asked Sir John to include these findings within those accepted cases of maladministration resulting in injustice upon which he is advising HM Treasury.

This will expand the scope of his work, primarily by bringing forward the start date for the findings he is considering from July 1995 to July 1991 (the time regulatory returns first had the potential to mislead users), but should not unduly delay it. His overall task remains the same, namely to advise the Government on those policyholders who have suffered disproportionate impact as a result of those cases of maladministration leading to injustice which the Government now accept. The Government remain firmly committed to introducing a fair ex gratia payment scheme as soon as possible, taking benefit from Sir John's advice on the apportionment of responsibility and practicality of delivery, and having taken account of the public finances. Our goal is to introduce a scheme that is administratively quicker and simpler to deliver than that envisaged by the Ombudsman.

In the light of the timing of the judicial review judgment, Sir John has extended to 27 October his deadline for representations to his 18 August interim report. His task is considerable and complex, but he will advise as quickly as he is able, including by providing interim updates and conclusions on a continuing basis. I will update the House on his progress in due course.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The Department for Children, Schools and Families sought an advance from the contingencies fund to meet the urgent cash requirement of recruiting the members of the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) before Parliamentary approval of both the specific enabling legislation and the necessary estimate.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill will, subject to Royal Assent, provide for the creation of Ofqual, a new non-ministerial department. We plan that commencement of Ofqual should be on 1 April 2010, before the summer 2010 examinations and national curriculum tests round that begins in May. An open and transparent appointment process to the board rightly takes time and needs to commence now in order for the appointments to take effect from 1 April 2010. The appointment process will make it clear to applicants that any appointments would be contingent on Royal Assent to the necessary provisions.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £70,000 for this new service will be sought in a Supplementary Estimate for the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £70,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the contingencies fund.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Rates

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Barbara Follett): Following the motion "to regret that the Non-Domestic Rating (Deferred Payments)) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/1597), laid before the House on 6 July, does not remove the retrospective application of a revaluation of non-domestic rates for port-side operators", the Government are placing their response on record.

The business rates deferral scheme, which these regulations established, is not aimed at businesses that find themselves with significant and unexpected backdated rates liability, like some port businesses. Instead, this scheme allows all ratepayers, who wish to apply, to get help with their cash flow during the current economic climate, by enabling them to spread increases in their 2009-10 rates bills over three years, to 2011-12.

However, there have been a number of debates over the past year which refer to the occupiers of properties affected by the ratings review of ports. The Government have listened carefully to the concerns raised by affected businesses that, as a result of the review, they are being separately assessed for rates for the first time, and are now in receipt of unexpected and significant backdated rate bills.

In the current economic conditions, the Government are concerned about the impact that significant and unexpected backdated rates liability could have on businesses. The ratings system has to be fair and equitable to all, and waiving a tax liability for some would confer a disadvantage among other rate payers who have paid their legally established rates.

Given the present economic circumstances the Government believe that there is a general case to be made for assisting all businesses liable to receive large, unexpected backdated bills that have to be paid immediately, as is the case with a number of companies, including some port-based businesses, across England.

Therefore, the Government have put in place the Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/204), to help all businesses, including some in port areas, to pay significant and unexpected backdated rates liabilities over a period of eight years.

JUSTICE

Temporary Transfer of Prisoners Prior to Inspection

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, Dame Anne Owers, has today published two inspection reports concerning HMP Pentonville and HMP Wandsworth. The inspections took place in May and June this year.

A short time after the Wandsworth inspection, letters were sent to the Inspectorate and HMP Wandsworth on behalf of two prisoners, which indicated that prisoners had been temporarily moved out of the prison for the duration of the inspection. The implication of these letters was that the transfers were an attempt to manipulate the inspections to secure a more favourable outcome. The Chief Inspector sent a team of inspectors back to Wandsworth to examine the claims. That team also investigated the involvement of HMP Pentonville, which was said to have received prisoners temporarily from Wandsworth and to have transferred prisoners to Wandsworth for the duration of its own inspection.

Ministers and senior management of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) first learnt of these allegations on 30 July when the chief inspector's team was undertaking further inquiries into Wandsworth and Pentonville. The director general of NOMS, Phil Wheatley, immediately launched a formal investigation and wrote to all governors to reiterate that the temporary transfer of prisoners to manipulate inspection outcomes is unacceptable. I issued a public statement reflecting Mr Wheatley's message, and wrote to inform my Opposition counterparts of these investigations.

NOMS senior management received the completed investigation report on 2 October. The investigation found that 11 prisoners were subject to temporary transfers. Six were moved from Pentonville to Wandsworth immediately prior to the Pentonville inspection (11-15 May), and five from Wandsworth to Pentonville immediately prior to the Wandsworth inspection (1-5 June). Several were known to be vulnerable prisoners, and two prisoners self-harmed during this process. The investigation found that the 11 transfers had been arranged as deliberate attempts to manipulate the outcomes of the inspections.

As a result, on 13 October disciplinary charges under the Prison Service Code of Conduct were laid against a number of individuals. Disciplinary proceedings are currently underway.

During the course of the investigations, information emerged to suggest a similar incident may have occurred in HMP Brixton. A further investigation is underway and we are awaiting a formal report.

The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman and Her Majesty's Coroner are currently conducting separate investigations into the self-inflicted death of another prisoner transferred to Pentonville, following a court appearance, in the week before the inspection, and held there during the inspection before being returned to Wandsworth.

I have now asked Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons to work with the Ministry of Justice Director of Analytical Services to investigate whether the temporary transfer of prisoners prior to inspection is more widespread across the estate. The chief inspector's reports have highlighted practices in two prisons which are quite clearly reprehensible and neither justifiable nor excusable. Those involved neglected one of their primary duties—to treat prisoners with decency and respect. As investigations and disciplinary proceedings are currently underway, there are obvious constraints until these are concluded. I will of course keep the House informed of further developments.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 21 October 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Better Regulation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Ian Lucas): The Government have today published a report on the Benefit-cost Ratio of New Regulations Introduced in the Financial Year 2008-09.

The report shows that the benefits of new regulations enacted in the last financial year outweighed the costs by £9 billion, at a ratio of nearly 2 to 1 and confirms the Government's commitment to strengthening regulatory management.

The figures, published as part of a new benefit-cost ratio, showed that overall quantifiable benefits exceeded costs by about 80 per cent., meaning that Government regulation is expected to deliver £1.85 in yearly benefits for every £1 of cost, or a ratio of 1.85 to 1. The publication of the ratio, covering the 2008-09 legislative programme, is a world-first and will be published annually in the future.

The Pensions Act 2008, aimed at enabling and encouraging more people to build up a private pension income to supplement the money received from their basic state pension, is an exceptional piece of legislation, with the highest benefits and costs in 2008-09, which has a significant effect on the overall ratio. If removed from the ratio, the benefit to cost ratio would increase to 4 to 1.

The benefit-cost ratio is drawn from the detailed assessments of the impact of new regulation produced by Government Departments and regulators. All Departments and regulators that introduce new regulation that has a significant cost or benefit must produce a full impact assessment which is published in an online library.

The Government are fully committed to ensuring that all new regulation is justified and proportionate and that the benefits outweigh the costs. It builds on commitments to increase transparency and accountability, following on from the publication of the Government's regulatory programme.

Regulation provides essential protections to employees, employers and citizens. Striking the right balance between costs and benefits is vital to make sure the regulatory framework is fit for the 21st century.

A copy of the report is being placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

CABINET OFFICE

Draft Census (England and Wales) Order 2009

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): The Draft Census (England and Wales) Order 2009 in Council providing for a census to be taken in England and Wales on Sunday 27 March 2011 has, today, been laid before Parliament. This Order specifies the persons by whom, and with respect to whom, returns are to be made and the topics on which questions are to be asked, and gives effect to the United Kingdom statistics authority's proposals which were set out in the Government's White Paper, "Helping to shape tomorrow", in December 2008.

The Census is the most important source of demographic and social statistics available in the UK today. It provides the underlying information needed to inform a wide range of policy debates and is used extensively to plan services and allocate funds to local areas.

The design for the new Census, as set out in the White Paper, builds upon the experience gained by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from previous censuses and, in particular, from the lessons learned from the 2001 Census. The design takes account of the several formal recommendations from the Treasury Select Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the former Statistics Commission. It also reflects the concerns more recently expressed by the Treasury Sub-Committee and others about the quality of national and local population statistics generally.

Consequently, a number of major changes are proposed in the design for 2011 compared with previous censuses.

Census forms will be delivered to households by post in the majority of cases.

There will be the facility to return the completed information online.

A central address register is being developed to facilitate improved form delivery and field management.

Tighter control of the field operation and the targeting of non-response follow-up will be facilitated by closer monitoring of the delivery of forms and receipt of returns through a questionnaire tracking system.

The recruitment, training and payment of field staff will be outsourced to specialist service providers.

The topics proposed for the 2011 Census are set out in the Draft Order, and cover those issues where information is most needed by the major users of census information. The questions have been devised to produce reliable and accurate data. ONS has carried out extensive consultations and testing over a number of years to ensure that the questions are justified, both in terms of the need for the information and public acceptability.

New questions are proposed on: national identity; citizenship; second residences; language; civil partnership status; date of entry into the UK and length of intended stay (for non-UK born); type of central heating; and number of bedrooms.

Copies of the 2011 Census questionnaire will be included as part of the Census regulations to be made early in 2010 following the Census Order.

Following devolution, separate legislative arrangements will be made in Scotland and Northern Ireland for the censuses there. However, the Census date proposed is common throughout the UK in order to maximise comparability, to minimise costs, and reduce public confusion.

TREASURY

Anti-avoidance

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): It is right that all taxpayers pay their fair share of tax. However, there are a minority who continue to seek ways to avoid paying their share. This is unacceptable. It is unfair on the majority of taxpayers, undermines fiscal sustainability, and reduces funding for public services. This Government will not tolerate tax avoidance or tax evasion in any form, and will act promptly to tackle both of these.

Several tax avoidance schemes have been notified to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) exploiting the sideways loss relief and double tax relief (DTR) rules, so I am today announcing changes to be made to legislation, with immediate effect, to counter these schemes.

Sideways loss relief

As made clear by the Paymaster General in her written statement on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 105WS and the introduction of anti-avoidance legislation in subsequent Finance Acts, the Government will not tolerate avoidance schemes designed to exploit sideways loss relief rules. The Government have recently become aware of a contrived and aggressive avoidance scheme that seeks to generate losses in a professional partnership for offset by users of the scheme against their other income or capital gains by way of sideways loss relief. This scheme relies on the creation of losses through a series of arrangements that are established for the purposes of tax avoidance.

The Government do not accept that these arrangements have the effect that is sought, but to remove any doubt, and to prevent scheme providers continuing to devise and operate even more contrived schemes that seek to challenge the sideways loss relief rules, I am announcing prompt and decisive action to protect the Exchequer.

With effect from today a general rule will be introduced to prevent sideways loss relief being given where the loss arises from arrangements and a main purpose of the arrangements is to obtain a tax reduction by means of sideways loss relief. This test does not impact on genuine loss-makers who have not entered into avoidance arrangements.

Legislation will be introduced in next year's Finance Bill. Full details of this measure including draft legislation will be issued on HMRC's website today.

Double tax relief: Unauthorised Unit Trusts

HMRC has been notified that unauthorised unit trusts are being used to avoid restrictions on double tax relief and to generate "repayments" of tax that the UK Exchequer has not received. To counter this, legislation will be introduced with the effect that to the extent any distribution treated as paid by a unauthorised unit trust is paid out of overseas income on which UK tax has been reduced by DTR, the distribution will be treated by the recipient as overseas income under deduction of overseas tax. The legislation will have effect from today.

A technical note setting out the details of this measure will be issued on HMRC's website today, with draft legislation to follow shortly.

Double tax relief: Manufactured Overseas Dividends

HMRC has been notified that some companies are using manufactured overseas dividends (MODs) instead of real overseas dividends in order to disapply the anti-avoidance rules in the DTR legislation.

To counter this, legislation will be introduced amending the relevant DTR anti-avoidance provision so that it applies to deemed overseas tax deducted from MODs in the same way that it applies to real overseas dividends. The amendment will ensure that the provision can also apply in other circumstances where the UK Tax Acts treat an amount that is not overseas tax as if it were overseas tax. These changes will prevent credits for notional overseas tax from being treated more favourably than tax credits on real dividends. The legislation will have effect from today.

A technical note setting out the details of this measure will be issued on HMRC's website today, with draft legislation to follow shortly.

Double tax relief: Manufactured Interest

HMRC has been notified that UK manufactured interest payments are being used to avoid tax under the rules relating to controlled foreign companies (CFCs) by artificial generation of DTR.

To counter this, regulations, coming into force today, will be made repealing rules that deem companies to have received UK manufactured interest under deduction of tax. Instead, the recipient will simply be taxed on the amount of manufactured interest it receives with no relief for any notional tax credit.

HMRC has identified a provision in separate regulations dealing with MODs that would allow substantially the same scheme to be implemented using MODs. To prevent this, regulations coming into force today will also be made ensuring that the MOD rules cannot be used to claim relief for overseas tax in inappropriate circumstances. Instead, the recipient will be taxed on the amount of the MOD it receives with no relief for any notional tax credit.

Both sets of regulations will be available on HMRC's website today.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): I would like to inform the House that a written answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 445W to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) was incorrect.

It should not have included reference to the figures including services claims made under Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Vibration White Finger schemes.

The number of coal health claims that were eligible for a Vibration White Finger services claim is shown in the table below.

We are unable to provide the number of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease claims that were eligible for a services claim as these figures are included within the schedule 11 calculations under the terms of the Claims Handling Agreement, and it is not possible to isolate them.

Claimants' Representatives	*Location*	*Number of claims*	*Claim eligible for services*	*Claim eligible for services that have been settled*
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	AMS (UDM claims only)	500	260	254
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	Sheffield	3	2	2
Atherton and Godfrey Solicitors	Doncaster	1	0	0
Atteys	Retford	136	105	103
Atteys	Rotherham	46	41	41
Avalon Solicitors (ceased trading)	Warrington	5	1	1
Bakewells	Derby	1	0	0
Banner Jones	Chesterfield	3	3	3
Barber Cartain Solicitors (ceased trading)	Manchester	1	0	0
Bell Dallman and Co.	Doncaster	4	4	4
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	158	73	73
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (UDM only)	569	247	243
BHP Law	Belmont	8	7	7
Branton Bridge	Manchester	4	4	4
BRM Solicitors	Chesterfield (UDM claims only)	1	1	1
Browell Smith and Co.	Newcastle upon Tyne	34	22	21
Burroughs Day Solicitors	Bristol	3	2	2
Colemans Solicitors	Manchester	6	2	2
Corries York	York	13	6	6
Davis Blank Furniss	Hadfield	1	0	0
Davis Blank Furniss	Manchester	4	4	4
Dean Thomas and Co. Solicitors	Worksop	3	1	1
Farleys Solicitors	Burnley	4	2	2
Flint Bishop and Barnett Solicitors	Derby	1	0	0
Foy and Co.	—	1	1	1
Foys Solicitors	Worksop	43	36	35
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	8	8	8
Gorvin Smith Fort Solicitors	Stockport	9	6	6
Grainger Appleyard and Fleming	Doncaster	1	1	1
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	610	462	452
Hamers Solicitors	Hull	1	1	1
Hickmotts Solicitors	Rotherham	23	16	16
Holmes and Hills Solicitors	Great Dunmow	1	0	0
Hopkins	Eden Court, Mansfield	97	84	84
Hopkins	Mansfield	1	1	1
Hopkins	—	4	1	1
Hugh James	Cardiff	3	3	3
Ilett and Clark Solicitors	Nottingham	4	3	3
Ingrams Solicitors	Hessle (VWF only)	3	2	2
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	98	77	77
Keeble Hawson	Doncaster	39	32	31
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	Sheffield	67	46	46
Kenyon Son and Craddock	32 South Parade	1	1	1
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	163	113	110
Kingslegal	Cardiff	1	0	0
Lloyd Green Solicitors	Glasgow (UDM only)	1	0	0
Lopian Wagner Solicitors	Manchester	4	0	0
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle upon Tyne	3	2	2
Marrons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	1	0	0
McArdles Solicitors	Hartlepool	3	0	0
Meloy Whittle Robinson	Preston	10	4	4
Mincoffs Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	3	2	2
Morrish and Co. Solicitors	Leeds	4	3	3
Mortons Solicitors	Sunderland	12	1	1

Claimants' Representatives	*Location*	*Number of claims*	*Claim eligible for services*	*Claim eligible for services that have been settled*
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	13	9	9
Moss Solicitors	Moss UDM Claims Only	301	263	252
O. H. Parsons and Partners Solicitors	London	199	161	199
Oxley and Coward Solicitors	Rotherham	37	32	32
Pannone and Partners Solicitors	Manchester	4	3	3
Parker Rhodes Solicitors	Rotherham	1	1	1
Pinto Potts Solicitors	Aldershot	1	0	0
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	239	168	167
Richard J. Knaggs and Co.	Redcar	2	2	2
Robinson and Murphy Solicitors	Newcastle	1	1	1
Robinson King Solicitors (ceased trading)	Stockport	19	19	19
Ravell Jones and Walker Solicitors	Sheffield	2	2	2
Saffmans Solicitors	Leeds	9	6	5
Sedgwick Phelan and Partners	Middleton, Manchester	1	1	1
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	Doncaster	16	11	11
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	4	2	2
Simpson Millar Solicitors	Leeds	3	3	3
Stanton Croft Estate Agents and Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	2	0	0
Stuart Bell and Associates	Worksop	143	112	112
The Quigley Partnership (ceased trading)	Bolton (do not use)	1	1	0
The Smith Partnership	Derby	1	0	0
Thompsons Solicitors	Manchester	2	2	1
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	26	22	22
Thompsons Solicitors	Nottingham	1	0	0
Thornleys	Huddersfield	2	1	1
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	29	10	10
Towells Solicitors	Wakefield	49	31	29
Tracey Barlow Furniss and Co.	Retford	1	1	1
Tracey Barlow Furniss and Co.	Worksop	9	3	3
Twigg Farnell Solicitors (ceased trading)	Rotherham	4	4	4
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	1,009	698	693
Wake Smith and Tofields Solicitors	Sheffield	6	3	3
Walker and Co. Solicitors	Rotherham	1	1	0
Watson and Brown Solicitors	South Shields	1	0	0
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle upon Tyne	131	114	113
Total		5,198	3,380	3,326

HOME DEPARTMENT

National DNA Database

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): I have today placed the National DNA Database (NDNAD) annual report for 2007-08 and 2008-09 in the Library of both Houses. The Government accept the need for ongoing accountability to the public on the operation of the NDNAD. The NDNAD annual report, which publishes details of its activities, is an important part of the aim to increase transparency and maintain and improve public confidence in the oversight, management and operations of the NDNAD.

JUSTICE

Family Legal Aid

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

On 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column WS156, I tabled a written ministerial statement in respect of our earlier consultation paper, "Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010", published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Legal Services Commission (LSC) which set out proposals for legal aid payments for family work to apply from 2010.

Although I remained convinced that it is right to proceed with a harmonised family advocacy scheme, I asked my officials to undertake further analysis of the assumptions that underpin the modelling of the fee schemes, to ensure the accuracy of that modelling. This additional work was necessary as there had been some significant changes made to our original consultation proposals following detailed discussion with stakeholders about the structure of both the advocacy and representation schemes.

In particular, we have introduced more graduation into the fee scheme structure to ensure that those advocates who take on the more difficult and complicated cases are fairly rewarded. In addition, I decided not to proceed with our proposal to remove independent social work from scope in private law cases but will continue to work with Cafcass to determine the best way to use our mutual resources for the benefit of vulnerable children.

I am now satisfied that the new fee schemes are based on robust data and accurate modelling, and that the final scheme allows us to achieve a reasonable balance between complexity and value for money.

The new fee schemes direct more money into public law cases to ensure that children and adults at risk of abuse take the highest priority for legal services. The fee schemes do not represent cuts to the family legal, aid budget or to the services received by children and families, but some funding will be moved from barristers to solicitor advocates, as barristers and solicitor advocates will now receive the same fees for the same advocacy work. The fee schemes have been designed to be cost-neutral against 2007-08 average case costs.

The LSC will shortly publish the response document and impact assessment on their website and the new schemes will be introduced with the new civil contracts in October 2010.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 22 October 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Independent Faith Schools

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 9 March 2009, I informed the House that I had asked Ofsted to carry out a survey of independent faith schools' work to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. The purpose of the survey was to gather evidence on current practice with a view to considering whether the independent school regulations on SMSC are fit for purpose. The survey focused on practice in faith schools in view of the particular context a faith ethos provides.

Ofsted has today published the results of the survey. It found that practice in all of the 51 schools visited was at least good with pupils demonstrating a strong sense of identity and belonging to their faith, their school and to Britain; and with a clear commitment to promoting the values of good citizenship. Ofsted has concluded that the current regulations are fit for purpose but recommends various ways in which we can work with the sector to improve pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development further and support consistently high standards across the sector.

I very much welcome the report. I asked Ofsted to carry out this survey because some concerns had been expressed about whether all independent faith schools were effectively preparing pupils for life in British society. While we will always take any specific allegations very seriously, this survey shows that the regulatory regime for independent schools is fit for purpose and that provision across the sector is good.

I would like to thank the schools and the representatives of different faith organisations who took part in Ofsted's survey. I look forward to working with them and with other practitioners from across the sector to take forward Ofsted's recommendations and promote excellent opportunities for all pupils.

Ofsted has made recommendations in three areas:

1) Provide greater clarity in the meaning of the five strands of the SMSC regulations.

The independent school regulations are designed to offer flexibility to allow schools to provide a distinctive education in line with their faith ethos while at the same time preparing pupils to lead successful lives as responsible citizens in wider British society. While schools want to retain this flexibility, Ofsted has found that they would welcome greater clarity about what is meant by aspects of the regulations.

I will be setting up a new independent schools practitioners group to work with us on revised guidance to promote consistently high standards right across the sector. This will include encouraging schools to provide pupils with opportunities to learn about the different cultures and faiths practised in the UK, alongside developing a deep understanding and sense of belonging to their own community.

2) Encourage more interfaith and partnership working between independent schoolsand with the maintained sector.

Ofsted has found that some of the best practice occurs where schools work in partnership with local communities and with other schools to support the professional development of staff and build mutual respect and understanding.

There are lots of excellent examples of good partnership working already taking place. I have asked Pat Langham, Chair of the Independent-State School Partnership Group (ISSP) for that group to consider how the sector could encourage this further.

Around 70 faith schools from the maintained and independent sectors are already embarking on linking projects through the DCSF funded national Schools' Linking Network (SLN). Last week I announced an additional £50,000 support for the national Schools' Linking Network to work in partnership with the Three Faiths Forum to provide high quality advice and training for Local Authorities and schools to encourage successful interfaith linking projects and links between maintained and independent schools.

3) Ensure teaching resources are accurate and unbiased.

Religious Education (RE) has a very important role to play in promoting cohesion through developing understanding of different faiths and cultures and exploring the role faith plays in society, and it is important that teachers have access to high quality and accurate resources. In a minority of the schools visited, Ofsted found that while the pupils' understanding was good, there were examples of inaccurate or biased materials being used to teach about religions.

We know that the availability of high quality resources for RE is an issue in both maintained and independent sectors and I would urge all schools to review the resources they are using. As part of a drive to improve RE provision in all schools, we have commissioned Warwick University to carry out research to look at the RE materials that are currently being used. This work will help to inform work with the RE council, local RE curriculum advisors, teachers and schools to make sure that all pupils have access to high quality learning materials. We will publish this research in the New Year.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Review

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The Ministry of Defence is entering the next stage of the review of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme that was brought forward from 2010, as announced by the Defence Secretary in July of this year.

The terms of reference for the review are as follows:

to examine whether the fundamental principles of the scheme remain valid;

to evaluate how successfully the scheme in its current form gives effect to these principles;

having regard to fairness, feasibility, sustainability and ease of administration, to make recommendations on any modifications that are required to ensure that the scheme is fit for purpose.

The review will be undertaken by the Ministry of Defence under the leadership of an independent chairman, Admiral the Lord Boyce, who will determine the review recommendations. It will report to the Defence Secretary and be published by him, with an indication of the steps which he intends to take as a result of the review.

An independent scrutiny group has been established with representatives of service and ex-service organisations, service families' representatives, and medical, academic and legal experts, from whom the independent chairman and the Department will take advice as the review progresses. It has already held its first meeting.

The aim is for the review to report within a few months.

The review will look at a range of issues including (but not limited to):

the fundamental principles underlying the compensation scheme;

the overall level of compensation, including for dependants;

what the compensation is for and its relationship with other state benefits;

comparisons with other compensation in the UK and internationally;

issues raised by the Court of Appeal judgment;

the circumstances of injury, illness or death;

the claims and adjudication process;

the burden and onus of proof;

the time limit on claims and the treatment of deterioration;

the compensation paid for mental illness; and

the compensation paid to individuals with multiple injuries.

The membership of the Review's Independent Scrutiny Group is as follows:

Admiral the Lord Boyce GCB OBE DL	Former Chief of the Defence Staff
Major General Sir Evelyn Webb-Carter KCVO OBE DL	Controller, Army Benevolent Fund
Jerome Church	General Secretary, BLESMA
Chris Simpkins	Director General, Royal British Legion
David Richmond	AFCS Beneficiary
Kim Richardson	Chair of the Navy Families Federation
Gill Grigg MBE	Chair of War Widows Association of Great Britain
Professor David Bonner	Professor of Law, University of Leicester
Simon Levene	Barrister
Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor CBE FMedsci	Deputy Principal of the Faculty of Medicine Professor of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Imperial College, Consultant Physician at Royal Brompton Hospital
Dr. David Snashall MSc FRCP FFOM LLM	Clinical Director and Senior Lecturer in the Occupational Health Department at St. Thomas' Hospital
Professor David Alexander MA (Hons) C.Psychol PhD FBPS FRSM (Hon) FRCPSych	Director of the Aberdeen Centre for Trauma Research and Professor of Mental Health in the Faculty of Health and Social Care

UK-Iraq Agreement

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): I am making a statement on the UK's bilateral agreement with the Government of Iraq on defence training and maritime support. Copies of the text of this agreement were placed in the Libraries of both Houses on 26 July.

The House will be aware that the UK concluded combat operations in Iraq on 30 April, and that our combat forces were withdrawn by the end of July in accordance with our previous arrangement with the Government of Iraq.

As the Prime Minister announced on 18 December last year, the Iraqi Government have requested our continued military assistance, particularly in officer training, naval training and maritime support. The two Governments therefore concluded an agreement concerning naval training and maritime support to Iraqi forces in June. Since then, the agreement has been considered by the Iraqi Council of Representatives and received its Third Reading on 13 October. The agreement will now enter into force once both parties have completed their parliamentary procedures and exchanged diplomatic notes.

My right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary wrote to Opposition spokesmen and the Chair of the House of Commons Defence Committee last month to explain our intention to bring the agreement into force as soon as the Iraqi Government are ready. Training of the Iraqi Navy has been paused since June, and it is important to resume this activity as soon as possible to ensure that they quickly develop the capacity to protect their own territorial waters and the offshore oil platforms which are so vital to Iraq's economic revival. A prompt resumption of training would allow our Royal Navy trainers, who have been held at readiness since June, to return to the task that they are so adept at delivering.

The agreement was published as a Command Paper and laid before both Houses on 25 September. However, due to our summer recess, it will not now be possible to allow the agreement to lay for the full 21 sitting day period before exchanging diplomatic notes. Since it is agreed that our training activity should resume as soon as possible, and having kept Parliament informed of progress throughout the recess, the Government intend to notify the Iraqi Government within the next few days that the UK is ready to bring this agreement into force.

Defence Estate Stewardship

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The Stewardship Report on the "Defence Estate 2008-09" will be published today. The publication of the report implements the commitment in "The Defence Estate Strategy 2006—In Trust and On Trust" to report annual performance across a range of estate-related strategic aims, and to demonstrate that the Department is discharging its obligations properly and acting responsibly in meeting the needs of the armed forces. The report attempts to balance:

a. the substantial investment made in the estate, the successes over the year, the steps being taken to improve the effectiveness of management and the achievement of value for money;

b. the commitment to provide an account of our stewardship to external stakeholders.

The report continues to set out the progress against the aims and objectives in the Defence Estate Strategy 2006 and demonstrates how the estate is changing as a result. The report is published online and can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/DefenceEstateand EnvironmentPublications/DefenceEstates/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 26-27 October in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the 29-30 October European Council

The GAERC will discuss the Presidency's agenda for the October European Council, which will be dominated by three main topics: institutional issues, climate change and the economic and financial crisis. On institutional issues, the focus will be on how to follow up Czech President Klaus's questions in relation to the Lisbon Treaty. The presidency will look to make progress where it can on implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. It is possible that this may include detailed discussion on the shape of the Commission.

Preparations for the Copenhagen summit on climate change will be a priority as the October European Council offers the last realistic opportunity for the EU to agree a mandate in advance of Copenhagen. The presidency has also scheduled a discussion of the Commission's "Larosiere" proposals on European financial supervision and regulation, focusing on Commission proposals for the creation of a new European systemic risk body (ESRB). The other agenda items are illegal migration, the Baltic Sea strategy and external relations.

The Government broadly support the Presidency's agenda and look forward to a firm EU commitment on climate change ahead of Copenhagen.

Baltic Sea Strategy

There will be a short discussion of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region. Ministers are expected to agree conclusions on the strategy before it is formally adopted at the October European Council. The strategy aims to make the Baltic Sea region an environmentally sustainable, prosperous, accessible, and secure place, by bringing together a range of existing and planned measures into an integrated overall approach. The Government welcome the strategy as a means of delivering joined-up regional approaches to the issues facing Europe and will be interested to observe the development of actions and the lessons this may have for the management of regional seas.

AOB: Climate change

Following the launch of the Four Degree Map on 22 October, which involved senior scientists from the Met Office Hadley Centre, we will be interested to hear partners' views. The map shows the most likely outcome from Business As Usual emissions and underlines the risk of a four degree rise to security and prosperity, and the need for a deal at Copenhagen that will keep warming to a maximum of two degrees. Ministers will also discuss the forthcoming EU summits with the US, India, Russia and China, where we want climate change to be a key agenda item.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Iran

This will be the first EU ministerial discussion since the 1 October meeting in Geneva of the E3+3 and Iran. The presidency will look to the parties involved to update on developments since then, namely: attempts to schedule a follow-up meeting with the Iranians that addresses the nuclear issue; the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection (scheduled for 25 October) of the recently disclosed enrichment facility at Qom; and the negotiations in Vienna on 19 October regarding the Tehran research reactor. We will also reiterate the need for the EU to maintain a robust united voice in condemnation of human rights violations arising from the ongoing post-election trials.

Enlargement

Ministers may discuss Albania's application for EU membership. The Government support prompt forwarding of the Albanian application to the Commission for an Avis (opinion) in line with normal practice.

Afghanistan/Pakistan

Discussion will focus on the joint Presidency-Commission paper on enhancing EU engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Government welcome the paper, and look forward to its full and swift implementation.

We also expect discussion to focus on the outcome of the Afghan elections. We will underline the importance of maintaining co-ordinated EU support in the run-up to the second round of the presidential elections, including through another European election mission. We will also aim to secure agreement to hold a second EU-Pakistan summit under the Spanish presidency.

Western Balkans

We expect the Swedish presidency to report on the joint EU-US initiative to make progress on blocked reform priorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The Government welcome this initiative, to which we are giving our full support. We are urging BiH's political leaders to engage fully and constructively in the talks.

Middle East Peace Process

Following a briefing to Ministers from the Presidency and High Representative Solana, the GAERC is likely to reiterate EU support for: a two-state solution in accordance with previous agreements between the parties; the need for a comprehensive, regional approach; and urgent access to Gaza. We expect Ministers to review US efforts to launch negotiations between the parties and reaffirm the EU's readiness to work in close co-operation with the US and other international partners towards achieving a sustainable and lasting peace.

Sri Lanka

We welcome this discussion, which we expect to cover our main areas of concern, in particular: the need for the Government of Sri Lanka to make urgent progress in returning the internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their homes as soon as possible; improving the conditions in the camps for the remaining IDPs and taking steps aimed at encouraging reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities. This includes the need for an independent and credible process to address possible violations of international humanitarian law by both sides during the conflict.

AOB: Moldova

Ministers are likely to discuss recent political and economic developments. This may include the recent International Monetary Fund visit, the timing of EU macro-financial assistance and other possible sources of funding. There may also be a short discussion about the outcome of the presidential parliamentary vote on 23 October. We support an ambitious programme of EU engagement and assistance with the new Government.

AOB: Somalia

Ministers are likely to discuss possible EU action, including a mission to train Somali security forces. They may also cover existing training initiatives undertaken bilaterally by some member states. We support the UN political office for Somalia (UNPOS) joint needs assessment, expected mid-November, believing that its outcomes will help to focus EU activities, and encourage co-ordination and buy-in from the Transitional Federal Government.

AOB: Guinea

We expect Ministers to discuss an EU arms embargo and sanctions against individuals deemed to be a threat to the transitional process in Guinea. The Government strongly condemn the violent repression by military forces of the demonstration on 28 September in Conakry, the massacre of unarmed civilians and gross human rights violations including rapes. We would support an EU decision on targeted sanctions against suggested individuals and an EU arms embargo.

HEALTH

Management Consultants (Government Response to Health Committee Report)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): Following the Publication of a House of Commons Health Select Committee report on the use of management consultants by the NHS and Department of Health on 4 June 2009, I am today laying the Government's response before Parliament (Cm 7683). The response is in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The Government have considered the Committee's report and welcome it as a helpful contribution. The Command Paper sets out the Government's response to the report and outlines the steps already being taken to meet the recommendations of the Committee.

The Department is already working to meet the Committee's recommendations as part of a programme to improve the transparency of expenditure and to enhance the way in which management consultants are procured, managed and evaluated. Details on the Department's use of management consultancy have already been published and will be shared with the Committee at the forthcoming public expenditure inquiry.

Our response also sets out how we plan to improve the accountability and ensure value in the use of management consultancy in the NHS. We have already set in place plans to collect details of the NHS's overall expenditure by summer 2010. The Government have also committed to undertaking further work to improve the transparency of NHS expenditure. Through this work, the Government intend to continue to improve the level of detail we are able to provide to the Select Committee.

Age Equality in Health and Social Care

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): In April 2009, the Secretary of State for Health asked Sir Ian Carruthers, Chief Executive of NHS South West, and Jan Ormondroyd, Chief Executive of Bristol City Council, to undertake a review of age discrimination and age equality in the health and social care sector, as announced in a written statement on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 35ws.

The review was asked to consider what health and social care organisations should do to meet the age provisions of the Equality Bill, currently before Parliament. The Bill outlaws age discrimination against people aged 18 and over by those providing services and exercising public functions. The Bill also creates a new public sector equality duty which applies in relation to age as well as to seven other protected characteristics.

The review was supported by the National Advisory Group on Age Discrimination, chaired by John Dixon, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Social Services at West Sussex County Council. The review has undertaken a comprehensive engagement process in the South West with local authorities, the NHS, public groups and third sector organisations focusing on the practical implementation of the Bill.

The review's leaders published their report, Achieving "Age Equality in Health and Social Care"—a report to the Secretary of State for Health on 22 October 2009. The report sets out the review's recommendations and conclusions on what actions health and social care organisations need to take to tackle age discrimination and advance age equality. It includes a recommendation to implement the Equality Bill's age discrimination ban in health and social care at the same time as in other sectors.

The Government are minded to accept the review's recommendation on the timing of implementation. The Department intends to consult on its response to the report in December of this year. This will take place in parallel with the further development of a resource pack designed to support implementation.

The report has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Gillian Merron): European Union Health Ministers met in Luxembourg for the EPSCO (Health) Council on 12 October 2009. Andy Lebrecht (Deputy Permanent Representative, UKRep) represented the UK.

EU Health Commissioner Vassiliou opened the meeting by announcing the latest information from the ongoing clinical trials on the vaccines for H1N1. It was looking increasingly likely that only one dose would be enough to ensure immunity, rather than two as previously thought. As requested by the Council conclusions, the Commission would propose a mechanism whereby member states with surpluses of vaccines could make those vaccines available to other member states.

The Commissioner then noted that the joint procurement exercise for those member states without agreements with the pharmaceutical industry (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Malta) was ongoing and might be extended to EU neighbourhood or candidate countries. She finished by remarking that had the EU had a common procurement agreement for vaccines, rather than differing national arrangements, then all countries could have had the right amount of vaccines at a lower price.

Commissioner Vassiliou praised the willingness to work together that member states had shown throughout the pandemic, but noted that there was room for improvement, particularly in the field of communication. She complained that the Commission and other member states had often heard about important announcements through the media, rather than beforehand from the member state(s) concerned.

The ministerial discussion focused on three main issues: communications with the public; work with developing countries; and cross-cutting multi-sectoral preparedness.

Most member states agreed that communications should be co-ordinated wherever possible, but noted that they would always have to be tailored to local circumstances. When policies or messages differed, it was important that authorities could explain to the public why this was. This was particularly true for the vaccination campaigns which will be launched in the near future. The UK, and other countries, emphasised the key role that the Health Security Communicator's Network, which provides a forum for officials dealing with communications to liaise with each other, has to play here. The UK also noted that it would be important for any EU-level communications initiative to support member state initiatives.

There was also a clear consensus that work with developing countries should be led by the UN system, and the WHO in particular. Many member states noted that the question of aid was wider than only the supply of vaccines: the EU should consider how healthcare systems more generally could be strengthened. The UK encouraged other member states and the Commission to provide as much support as possible to the UN's urgent needs identification and prioritisation process for developing countries, and looked forward to the discussions on this envisaged by the Council conclusions.

The presidency received clear support for the work they had initiated on multi-sectoral issues in the friends of the presidency group. In addition to transport, telecommunications, and energy, member states thought that business continuity in banking and food and water supplies should be considered. The UK said that it thought that this multi-sectoral work was essential and suggested two specific tasks this group could set itself:

> in the short term, a report summarising the business planning assumptions each member state is using; and
>
> in the long-term, a piece of work examining the kind of flexibilities that might be needed in community legislation in the event of a crisis situation.

The presidency welcomed these suggestions and said that the group would indeed take forward the work suggested by the UK.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Pre-Council Statement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs Council is due to be held on 23 October 2009 in Luxembourg. My noble friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Bach, the Scottish Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing, and I intend to attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. As the provisional agenda stands, the following items will be discussed:

The Council, beginning in Mixed Committee with non-EU Schengen states, will receive an update from the presidency on arrangements for the first milestone test for the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II). The UK welcomes the update and will press to ensure the test is well-planned and managed in line with the criteria set out in the June JHA Council conclusions.

Next the presidency will present an update on the current state of play on the implementation of the regulation establishing the Visa Information System (VIS). The UK does not participate in that regulation.

Following Mixed Committee, the Commission will present their annual report on visa reciprocity, which is to be published soon. While the UK does not participate in the EU visa regime, we do maintain an interest in all visa issues, notably for full reciprocity with third country nationals. The Council will then exchange views on Canada's decision to reintroduce visa requirements for all Czech nationals. The UK believes the Commission should continue to engage with the Canadians to broker a solution.

The presidency will seek a general approach on the draft framework decision on accreditation of forensic laboratory activities, which aims to increase mutual trust in DNA and fingerprint data exchanged by requiring a minimum standard of accreditation. The Government fully support the measure, subject to the views of the parliamentary scrutiny committees.

The presidency will then invite the Council to reach a general approach on the proposal for a Council decision to establish the European crime prevention network. This instrument will strengthen the network's ability to identify exchange and disseminate crime prevention information and actions targeted at traditional, or volume, crime. The UK is a co-sponsor of the initiative and supports the presidency in wishing to secure a general approach.

In the afternoon, Justice Ministers will be asked to adopt a Council resolution on a "roadmap" for strengthening procedural rights of suspected or accused persons in criminal proceedings. The resolution encourages the European Commission to submit proposals, to be considered by the member states, for action to improve criminal procedural law standards across the European Union. The Government hope that this will help to enhance the operation of mutual recognition by increasing trust among member states. The Government fully support the measure, subject to the views of the parliamentary scrutiny committees.

The presidency will seek a general approach on a draft framework decision and an accompanying draft resolution on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings. Together they form the first of the measures that are to be proposed on the "roadmap for strengthening procedural rights". They will ensure that there are common minimum standards with respect to the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings. The Government support the measures, subject to the views of the parliamentary scrutiny committees.

The Council will then have a first exchange of views on the proposed framework decision on the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters. This is a member state initiative, which seeks to establish a common legal framework for the transfer of criminal cases between member states where this would improve the efficient and proper administration of justice. This proposal is a priority for the Swedish presidency, where they hope to reach a general approach at the November Council (30 November to 1 December).

The presidency will lead a political discussion on the proposal for a framework decision on combating trafficking of human beings with a view to resolving some of the outstanding issues, for example on jurisdiction for offences. The Government are generally content with the proposed framework decision, subject to the views of the parliamentary scrutiny committees.

Under any other business the Commission will present its review of visa facilitation in the Western Balkans. The UK does not participate in the part of the Schengen acquis that covers visa liberalisation, and will not be lifting visit visa requirements for Western Balkan states when the Schengen zone liberalises its own requirements. The UK remains a strong supporter of the EU enlargement process and the aspirations of West Balkan states for eventual EU membership.

JUSTICE

Council Tax Enforcement (Magistrates Courts)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Local authorities use the magistrates courts to enforce non-payment of council tax. This process begins with an application (called a "complaint") for the court to issue a summons informing the individual that the local authority is seeking unpaid council tax and asking the individual to attend court if they wish to challenge the court making a liability order for that amount. The issue of a summons for non-payment of council tax or non-domestic rates must be authorised by a justice of the peace or legal adviser with delegated powers from a justices' clerk. Fees are chargeable and the decision of the court at the hearing must be recorded in a court register.

Investigations by HMCS staff has identified examples of a small number of magistrates courts failing to follow the correct procedures. In particular HMCS has identified examples of fees not being charged to local authorities for issuing proceedings and some examples of a failure at Salford magistrates court to enter the results of applications for liability orders on the court register. More seriously two magistrates courts, Rochdale and Salford permitted the local authorities to issue summonses requiring attendance at court without the authorisation of the court.

This was a clear procedural failing and was immediately stopped when it came to light. Individuals and the magistrates concerned in subsequent hearing cases would not have been aware of this irregularity.

In all such cases individuals would have had ample opportunity to attend court if they wished to challenge the liability to have the non-payment enforced against them. However they would not have been aware that the summons had not been properly issued. Had the summonses been correctly issued, there is no reason to think the consequences would have been any different in practice. Individuals should pay their council tax and this House would expect non-payment to be properly enforced.

Given the paucity of information available it is not practicable to identify the individuals concerned. The issues identified in Rochdale and Salford have been fully investigated and I am satisfied that correct procedures are now in place. A national check was carried out that revealed no similar practices and all courts have been reminded of the importance of following the correct procedures.

Land Registry's Accelerated Transformation Programme

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Land Registry is today announcing a five-year programme of reorganisation and transformation that will cut its costs and put it in the best possible position to continue to deliver effectively the service its customers need.

Land Registry believes that the proposals will help create an organisation that can meet the challenges of a developing property market, that can live within its means and that can continue to provide an outstanding service to its customers. Having looked at a range of possibilities it is proposing to close five local offices and to reduce staff numbers to reflect more efficient working practices. It also intends to embark on a programme of outsourcing some of its support functions and to decrease outgoings further by selling surplus property. These changes will be accompanied by a new customer strategy to ensure Land Registry continues to deliver services that make property transactions easier for all its customers and will also develop additional services to generate extra revenue.

The "Blueprint for Land Registry's Future" published in 2006 recognised the need for it to change to become a smaller, leaner, more flexible organisation. Since then Land Registry has steadily reduced staff numbers but it now needs to move much faster.

Land Registry is proposing, in the first phase of its programme, the closure of its offices in Croydon, Peterborough, Portsmouth, Stevenage and Tunbridge Wells, outsourcing some of its support functions and the sale of surplus property, including its current head office building in central London. Combined with a redundancy scheme for some clerical staff, Land Registry aim to reduce their total staff numbers by a further 1,500 people over the next year and a half. Land Registry will review progress in 2011. Subject to the outcome of that review they envisage the need to reduce staff numbers further resulting in the closure of two further offices in the second phase of the programme.

The proposals announced today, which have been developed by the Land Registry working with the Operational Efficiency Programme, have been accelerated by the property slump—which drastically cut Land Registry's work and lead to a £129.9 million loss including restructuring costs in 2008-09—but they are not a knee-jerk response to it. They will however allow Land Registry to respond faster and more efficiently to future fluctuations in the market. Building as robust and sustainable an organisation as possible will allow Land Registry to be proactive rather than passive in the face of market changes and to be in good shape for a recovery in the property market.

The proposed closure of the five offices will be very unwelcome news for Land Registry staff. Land Registry will do whatever it can to ameliorate the impact on their exceptionally loyal, dedicated and hardworking workforce. Unfortunately however compulsory redundancies will undoubtedly be necessary if the proposals put forward are confirmed.

Land Registry believes that the proposals will allow it to make far better use of its buildings and to create significant efficiency savings. Land Registry makes no call on taxpayers' money but they expect cutting their costs to allow their fees to be significantly reduced over the next five years.

Looking ahead, Land Registry will continue to work with the Operational Efficiency Programme to identify additional opportunities to involve the private sector in its business whilst recognising that the creation, recording and guaranteeing of registered titles should remain a responsibility of Government. There will be a further statement in the pre-Budget report.

Land Registry have today published "Land Registry's Accelerated Transformation Programme: Consultation on Office Closures", copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Guide to Parliamentary Work

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): I am pleased to announce the publication of the "Guide to Parliamentary Work". The aim of the guide is to aid the understanding of parliamentary business and to promote best practice across Government Departments. The guide responds to recommendations contained in the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions suggesting greater accessibility to central guidance in this area.

The guide will be accessible to all through the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

NORTHERN IRELAND

Decommissioning

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): At the start of September I received a report from the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD). I have placed a copy of the report in the Library.

The IICD report that they have overseen a decommissioning event by the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and Red Hand Commando (RHC). The IICD believe that they have now completed the decommissioning of UVF/RHC arms.

The IICD also report that they have overseen an act of decommissioning by the Ulster Defence Association (UDA). They have received assurances that this is the first in a series of acts and that the UDA has committed to decommission the remainder of its arms before the expiry of the IICD's mandate.

This is a significant report that confirms that substantial practical progress has been made on decommissioning loyalist paramilitary weapons. This is a tremendous achievement that reflects the hard work of the IICD. They are to be congratulated.

In February I committed to bring the decommissioning amnesty period to an early end if there had not been substantial progress within the six months that followed extension. In the light of this report I have therefore decided to let the decommissioning amnesty period continue to run until February 2010. I urge all paramilitary groups to continue to show leadership and complete the decommissioning process.

WALES

Legislative Competence Education Order 2010

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to inform the House that the proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Education) Order 2010 has been laid today, as Command Paper (Cm 7728). Copies of this can be found in the Vote Office and will be placed in the Library from 12 noon. I have written to the Welsh Affairs Committee and to the House of Lords Constitutional Committee to request they undertake pre-legislative scrutiny.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund Commissioner

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): I am pleased to announce that Karamjit Singh CBE has been appointed the new Social Fund Commissioner for Great Britain and Northern Ireland following an open recruitment exercise. Karamjit will take up the post from 1 December 2009 for a three-year term.

Cold Weather Payments

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Helen Goodman): I am pleased to announce that, following advice from the Meteorological Office, the annual review of the Cold Weather Payments scheme has now been completed. Amending regulations were laid on 5 October and will come into force on 1 November 2009, in time for the beginning of the winter period.

For winter 2009-10 nine new weather stations will be included as part of the scheme. Consequently, some postcodes from existing weather stations for winter 2008-09 will be redistributed and assigned to the following weather stations: Fylingdales, Gravesend, Leek, Little Rissington, North Wyke, Sheffield, St Bees Head, Stonyhurst, and Strathallan.

The alternative weather stations have been chosen to provide weather station to postcode linkages that are at least as representative as the previous arrangements—the changes are expected to either have a neutral effect or indeed provide a more accurate assessment for those eligible.

I am writing separately to each Member whose constituency will be affected by these changes. I am also writing to each Member who made representations last winter to inform them of the advice from the Meteorological Office.

The amending regulations also provide for the rate of a Cold Weather Payment to remain at £25.00 for winter of 2009-10.

Cold Weather Payments are separate from, and in addition to, Winter Fuel Payments which are paid to eligible people from age 60.

Petitions

Monday 12 October 2009

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Post Office Closure (Kent)

Petition presented on 15 July 2009.

Declares that Sheerness main Post Office is providing an inadequate service.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to instruct Post Office Limited to re-open Queensway Post Office.

And the Petitioners remain etc,

[P000397]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, received 8 September 2009:

The Government recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why we are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this.

Under the Government's postal sector reforms introduced in 2001, Royal Mail (which includes Post Office Ltd) has been given greater commercial freedom, as the management and unions themselves requested, and Government have assumed an arm's length role as a shareholder in a public limited company. Subject to agreeing its strategic plan with us, the Board can structure the business as it decides best to meet the challenges of market development and changing customer needs.

The Government has introduced clearly defined national access criteria to maintain a national network and guarantee a reasonable level of access to post office services for all. Within the access criteria framework, however, the precise location of post office branches is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd.

Post Office Ltd has advised that the Queensway post office was closed in 2004 as part of the company's urban reinvention programme and that they are not aware of any ongoing serious service issues at the main Sheerness post office.

Steel Industry (Yorkshire)

The Petition of residents of Rotherham, and others,

Declares that the Petitioners are concerned about the decline of the steel industry in South Yorkshire.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to make time for a full debate on the state of the steel industry and to bring forward recommendations, to be considered by the House, to ensure its survival.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Denis MacShane, Official Report,* 16 July 2009 Vol. 496, c. 554 .]

[P000396]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, received 8 September 2009:

The Government are deeply conscious of the importance of the steel industry to the people of Rotherham and the South Yorkshire region. Employees particularly at Corus sites in the area are worried about their jobs and the impact on their families and their communities; and suppliers are concerned about the future of their businesses.

We are fully engaged with Corus to try to secure the future for as many workers as possible. The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills have spoken to Kirby Adams, Corus CEO about the matter on several occasions.

The current downturn has hit steel production across the globe and whilst job losses are always extremely regrettable, the UK steel industry is taking action to ensure that it is fit for the future.

Along with its partners in local government and the regions, the Government are bringing forward billions of pounds worth of infrastructure spending across the UK to help keep people and firms in work while private demand falls.

There will also be opportunities in the low carbon arena that will present significant market opportunities to UK steel makers and processors in the medium to longer term.

The Government accept these initiatives to stimulate demand will take time to feed through and have a real impact. That is why we are continuing to help the steel industry and why our focus is on training to help the industry get ready for the upturn in the economy when it comes.

The Government have offered up to £5million of training support to secure jobs across Corus sites. Through Train to Gain the Government are already making a significant investment to up-skill and re-skill Corus employees, including support for apprenticeships at the Corus Rotherham site. This reflects the high priority this Government place on continued investment in individuals and their skills during the downturn. Train to Gain is the Government's flagship service offering support to employers in England to invest in the future productivity and profitability of their businesses by investing in the skills of their employees and support has been provided to other companies in the steel and metals industries.

The Government note that these matters were discussed in the House on 7 July during a Westminster Hall debate on the Future of the Steel industry secured by the right hon. Member for Rotherham (Denis MacShane). There was also a Westminster Hall debate on Support for the Steel Industry secured by the Hon Member for Brigg and Goole (Ian Cawsey) on 24 March.

In addition the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills took part in a Steel Summit hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Steel and Metal Related Industry Group on 14 May. There was a follow-up meeting of the All Party Group on 20 July which was attended by the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills. At all these discussions, stimulating demand was seen as critical to the future of the steel industry and remains the key area that we will continue to address.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Planning and Development (Essex)

The Petition of John Hogarth, parents of Jotmans Hall School, local residents and others,

Declares that the proposed development of a SureStart Centre at Jotmans Hall School in Benfleet should be rejected because building the centre at that school would bring unacceptable problems including: compromising security for young children and the school buildings, including late at night and at weekends; destroying valuable greenbelt land and playing fields; wasting a vast amount of public money; increasing parking problems for school users and residents; and imposing highway safety dangers; further declares that the councils are pushing ahead with this plan because if they switch to other much more appropriate sites, they could lose their £500,000 budget for the project and that this demonstrates a cavalier approach by the councils to the management of public funds.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to encourage Essex County Council and the Castle Point Borough Council to consider this objection and Petition and to reject the Jotmans Hall site and to co-operate together in investigating more suitable sites and to now do this with public transparency and to undertake fully public consultation on any sites which are thought may be suitable.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 13 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 129 .]

[P000392]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, received 3 September 2009:

The Government are committed to providing a Sure Start Children's Centre for every community by March 2010 and through the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Bill the Government are introducing a statutory duty on local authorities to ensure sufficient provision of Sure Start Children's Centres—making them a universal service. Across the country, Sure Start Children's Centres are already providing access to high quality integrated services for young children under five years old and their families. This is particularly important in the current economic climate, where families face additional worries. All local authorities, working with their Children's Trust partners, are responsible for planning and delivering Sure Start Children's Centres.

The Government would expect the local authority, in this case Essex County Council, to think strategically about the location of children's centre provision in order to ensure universal coverage for all families with children aged zero to five, and to consider what provision would best deliver improved outcomes for children across the county. We would expect the local authority to consult widely on its proposals.

It is for Essex County Council to determine the precise nature of the communications and consultation with its partners. They must consult and inform all interested partners and allow adequate time and provide sufficient information for this process. Our advice to all local authorities is to start consulting early.

I understand that public consultation was carried out at pre-planning stage following Essex County Council's own guidance and processes. The Council has concluded the public consultation stage on the proposal to develop a Sure Start Children's Centre at Jotmans Hall School. The Council's Executive has considered the comments made during the consultation and has made some amendments to the plans for the children's centre at Jotmans Primary School in response to these concerns.

The centre to be located on the Jotmans Primary School site will provide easy access to early childhood services for around 835 local children under five, and their families, who live in the neighbourhood. Sure Start Children's Centres are a key part of our universal mainstream children's services and as such will contribute greatly to improving outcomes for all children wherever they live. They also have an important role to play in narrowing the gap in outcomes for the poorest children and the rest and we are committed to ensuring there is a centre for every community by 2010.

Primary Education (Cheshire)

The Petition of residents in Farndon and its surrounding district in the Eddisbury Parliamentary Constituency in the County of Cheshire and those interested in the maintenance of primary education in Farndon,

Declares that the maintenance of primary education at Farndon School is vital for the interests of current and future pupils and is of crucial importance and benefit to the wider communities which it serves as an essential component of education in Cheshire; that the state of the buildings, classrooms and common facilities is wholly inadequate; that provision of suitable areas for recreation is in grave need of being made available, or brought up to standard to meet the needs of the children at the school; that the research in its design, costings and planning of the necessary improvements, as detailed in the school's feasibility plan, are well advanced and offer a best practice, value for money solution to the current deficit of provision; and that the education authority, Cheshire West and Chester Council, provides the resources necessary to enable the school's feasibility plan to be put into effect.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to take steps to promote the proposal to make adequate provision at Farndon Primary School and re-dedicates its support for the continuing high quality education at this establishment.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Official Report,* 13 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 128 .]

[P000389]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, received on 17 August 2009:

Cheshire has seen a dramatic increase in schools capital funding in recent years. In 1996-97 it was allocated £10.4 million, and this has risen to nearly £118 million for the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Much of the devolved funding is allocated at local authority level, for the local authority to allocate between primary and secondary schools as it sees fit. This applies, particularly, to modernisation funding and basic need funding for expansion.

Specifically, for the two years 2009-10 and 2010-11, the newly formed Cheshire West and Chester has been allocated over £42 million. This includes £7 million for modernisation, £1.9 million for basic need, and £7.5 million for primary capital. Other amounts within the total have been given to schools directly as Devolved Formula Capital, also for programmes such as ICT and for extended schools.

The Primary Capital Programme (PCP), commits to renewing at least half of all primary school buildings by 2022-23. The aim is to create primary schools that are equipped for 21st-century teaching and learning, and are at the heart of their communities with children's services in reach of every family. The programme encourages and supports local authorities to take a long-term strategic approach to capital investment and to transform teaching and learning in primary schools, with the Children's Plan at its heart. The programme overall is supported by £1.9 billion of capital investment in the period 2008-11.

To access PCP funding all authorities were asked to prepare and submit to the Department a Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC). Before the unitary changes, Cheshire County Council delivered a "strategy for change" document which did not include Farndon School as one of the priority projects for Cheshire West and Cheshire.

Local authorities and schools have a duty to care for the premises through use of their annual Devolved Formula Capital (DFC). This is an amount allocated each year to primary and secondary schools to be spent by them on their priorities in respect of buildings, ICT and other capital need. It may be combined with capital funding from other sources, pooled with DFC allocated to other schools, and saved up to fund larger projects. Priorities are set at school level, but should have regard to planned expenditure in a local authority's asset management plan.

Decisions about how to prioritise capital investment are best made locally; it is for the Council to prioritise the schools in the project, deciding when each school will receive investment and the scope of work at individual schools, in the context of the overall funding allocation. We would expect a range of factors to be taken into account in making these decisions, including (but not limited to) current educational standards, levels of deprivation and the condition, suitability and size of the existing buildings and sites.

Good asset management is essential for schools if funding and assets are to be used efficiently and effectively to support the aims of the Children's Plan. Asset management guidance was first published by the DCSF around 10 years ago; however, the content and format of this guidance was revised in November 2008. Local Authorities (LAs) use school Asset Management Plans to provide the framework within which capital investment needs are assessed and prioritised. This is undertaken in partnership with schools and other local partners in an open, transparent and consultative manner. The information collated helps schools, LAs and the other partners to make informed spending decisions on the repair, renewal and improvement of premises, and thereby targets resources for maintenance where they are needed most.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Care Services (Essex)

The Petition of Mavis Hunt, and others.

Declares that permanent live in wardens in sheltered housing, for instance at Sweetbriar Lodge, should be retained, and notes the wonderful care and confidence these wardens give to vulnerable and elderly residents, enabling them to live with a degree of independence and dignity; further declares that councillors have full control of this decision and will be held to account for it; believes that a small expenditure on wardens can save much public money; congratulates wardens in Castle Point who are caring and thoughtful towards residents; expresses astonishment that Borough councillors are, yet again, threatening to remove wardens to save cash in a very short sighted manner and believes that councillors should start to listen to residents and the public.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review its guidance to local councils on the use of permanent wardens and to ask Castle Point Borough Council to listen to the Member of Parliament and continue to support our local wardens.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 20 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 122 .]

[P000348]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 12 October 2009:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the continued use of resident wardens in warden controlled accommodation.

We are aware that a number of older people are concerned about changes to the warden systems in some sheltered housing schemes, and the implications that such changes might have. I should like to emphasise that the Government are very mindful of the housing and support needs of all older people—wherever they live—whether in their "own homes", or with family, or in supported housing, like sheltered or extra care accommodation, or residential care establishments. The Government want to ensure that our older citizens should get the best housing and support services that can be made available locally and in the most effective way.

It is however, for local authorities to determine how to best meet the support needs identified in their communities—the Department does not prescribe any particular model of support. Communities and Local Government has given local authorities £1.686 billion of Supporting People funding. Authorities use this funding to provide housing support to a whole range of people, focusing their spending to best meet local need. All decisions about how the services are funded and monitored, which includes satisfaction with the service, are therefore made at the local level. From 1 April 2009 the Supporting People Programme grant was un-ringfenced. This supports our clear commitment to provide authorities with greater flexibility over their funding and allows them to develop innovative solutions to meet local needs.

We want to improve the delivery of support services for older people further, which is why we recently brought together representatives from Age Concern and Help the Aged and other key players such as the Local

Government Association to form the Sheltered Housing Working Group. A number of ministerial led meetings have already taken place and work is progressing on taking forward the issues identified by the working group, to decide how to best work with and support the sector and service users going forward.

Green Belt (Somerset)

The Petition of residents of the Woodspring constituency and others,

Declares that the Government's Regional Spatial Strategy proposes over 10,000 new homes on Green Belt land surrounding Long Ashton; and further declares that there are feasible options to accommodate necessary new housing without sacrificing the Green Belt.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to withdraw the proposed South West Regional Spatial Strategy and make a renewed commitment to the retention of the Green Belt.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Liam Fox, Official Report, 2 July 2009; Vol. 495, c.1P .]*

[illegible]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 12 October:

The proposed changes to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy were the subject of public consultation between July and September 2008. A substantial number of representations were received during that period about the proposed area of search 1A. No new representations can be taken into account now, as to do so might be unfair to other respondents.

However, the Government's policy on land designated as green belt has not changed.

Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) states that there is a presumption that housing development should be prioritised towards previously developed land, but recognises that some Greenfield land—undeveloped land that may or may not be part of existing green belt—may be needed for development. PPS3 puts the responsibility on local authorities to decide (within the broad framework provided by Regional Spatial Strategies) where to locate housing, to identify sites and to manage previously developed land back into development where possible to minimise the call on Greenfield and designated green belt land.

Planning and Development (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of residents of Higham Ferrers in the Wellingborough constituency and the surrounding area,

Sheweth

That major concern is expressed about proposed developments near to Higham Ferrers Nursery and Infant School and Higham Ferrers Junior School which will pose a risk to the children attending these schools. Increased traffic along the adjacent service road will pose a threat to children and parents, who use this road as a safe area for both the dropping off and picking up of children. In addition many children use this road during the day as an access route to and from the school especially to the sports facilities. Hundreds of children will be affected by the proposed developments.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to liaise with East Northamptonshire District Council and Northamptonshire County Council to ensure a safe environment for children using the schools.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report, 16 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 1071 .]*

[illegible]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government received, 12 October 2009:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government notes that a planning appeal has been submitted to him in respect of the above development. The appeal was received on 29 June 2009.

The petition has been brought to the attention of the Inspector, who visited the site on 22 September. The appeal will be determined during the course of the week beginning 28 September. A copy of the appeal decision will be sent to the hon. Member.

Planning and Development (Plymouth)

The Petition of people concerned at the proposed development of an energy from waste plant at Ernesettle, Plymouth,

Declares that the site identified by Plymouth City Council for an energy from waste plant at Ernesettle, Plymouth, is totally inappropriate for many reasons including the loss of playing fields.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to persuade Plymouth City Council to reconsider their decision and investigate alternative sites.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Alison Seabeck, Official Report, 11 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 657.]*

[illegible]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, received 12 October 2009:

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is aware of the proposal for an Energy from Waste Incinerator in Plymouth. Plymouth City Council has allocated 4 sites within its Waste Local Development Document (DPD).

This DPD has been through a full public consultation exercise in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 29 August 2007 for an Independent Examination; the Examination was carried out on 6 February 2008 and the document was found to be sound. The DPD was adopted by Plymouth City Council on the 21 April 2008.

I understand from officials in the Government Office for the South West that no planning application for an Energy from Waste Incinerator at Ernesettle (Plymouth) has been submitted to the Council for determination. The determination of planning applications is primarily the responsibility of the City Council, as the local planning authority.

DEFENCE

Bullying (Armed Forces)

The Petition of those concerned about bullying in the Armed Forces,

Declares that bullying in the British Army should be stopped once and for all.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Defence to take a firm and positive action to ensure that bullying in the British Army is once and for all put a stop to now.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Parmjit Dhanda, Official Report, 29 June 2009;* Vol. 495, c. 136 .]

[illegible]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence, received 18 August 2009:

All personnel have the right to live and work in an environment free from harassment, intimidation and discrimination. These principles are enshrined in values and standards that reject any form of harassment, intimidation or discrimination and call for respect and appropriate behaviour at all times. These values and standards are introduced in recruit training and continuously reinforced throughout an individual's service.

There is a policy of zero tolerance of bullying or ill-treatment and we encourage any allegation of inappropriate behaviour to be raised to the attention of the Commanding Officer to be investigated accordingly.

All allegations of mistreatment are taken very seriously and all substantive allegations are investigated, including by Service Police such as the Royal Military Police if appropriate. For the purposes of investigations Service Police are independent of the Ministry of Defence.

There are robust procedures for dealing with all forms of unacceptable behaviour. All those who are found to fall short of the Service's high standards or who are found to have committed an offence under the various Service Acts are dealt with administratively (up to and including dismissal) or through the disciplinary process, as applicable.

All Commanding Officers are made fully aware of their responsibility to protect others from the differing forms of harassment, physical and mental intimidation and discrimination, and any suspicion of bullying is dealt with immediately. These principles are reinforced throughout all military training.

All personnel have access to the full range of welfare and well-being support. Every unit has a comprehensive welfare system, which is widely publicised. This starts with Officers and non-commissioned officers, who have a line management welfare responsibility to individuals. Within the unit, personnel also have direct access to Unit Welfare Officers, pastoral, medical and welfare staff. A further secondary level of welfare support is provided which can either be accessed directly or through unit welfare staff. An example of this is the Army Welfare Service which provides a confidential professional support service and a Confidential Support Line telephone service. Personnel also have access to the Samaritans helpline.

There is no evidence to suggest that Absent Without Leave is a problem because of widespread bullying. However, all those returning from unauthorised absence are asked whether they wish to report any concerns.

In addition, the Secretary of State for Defence has established the statutory appointment of the Service Complaints Commissioner to provide an alternative point of contact for individuals (either Service personnel or a third party who wishes to make an allegation on behalf of a Service person) who feel unable to approach the chain of command to make an allegation that a Service person has been wronged in relation to discrimination, harassment, bullying or other inappropriate behaviour. The Commissioner will refer an allegation to the person considered appropriate to receive it. Normally, this will be the Commanding Officer of the Service person who is alleged to have been wronged. However, the Commissioner may refer the case to another officer if, for example, the Commanding Officer is the subject of or implicated in the complaint.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Wind Farm Development (Wales)

The Humble Petition of Robert Andrew Robinson Town Clerk of Welshpool Town Council,

Sheweth that the Communities of Mid Wales (and in particular Welshpool) are deeply concerned about the effect of Wind Farm transpiration in Mid Wales and in particular through Welshpool which is proposed over a sustained period.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House will urge the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to initiate a public inquiry on this matter before any Wind Farm Development is approved or allowed to take place and to ensure that full, proper and open consideration occurs prior to implementation of the project in Mid Wales.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Lembit Öpik, Official Report,* 14 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 264 .]

[P000393]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, received 11 September 2009:

The Government take the consideration of all impacts from wind farm development very seriously.

Where an application for a wind farm has been made under s36 of the Electricity Act 1989, a public inquiry into the application is mandatory if the relevant planning authority (Powys County Council in this case) objects. Even if the relevant planning authority does not object, I have the discretionary power to call for a public inquiry if I consider it necessary in the light of objections received.

Should I call for a public inquiry to be held, I will issue in advance a statement of the matters, which seem to me to be relevant to my consideration of the application. These matters could include transportation impacts in connection with the construction of the wind farm. The views of those objecting would be taken into account, together with all other relevant factors, in identifying these matters.

Even if a public inquiry is not held, I will similarly take objectors' views into account in reaching my decision on the application.

I am aware that Powys County Council, the Welsh Assembly Government and the developers concerned are considering transport issues raised by wind farm applications in mid-Wales.

Applications for wind farms made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 will be considered by the relevant local planning authority. The local planning authority would similarly consider transportation issues in their assessment of such applications.

As transport issues, including cumulative impacts, will be assessed as part of the normal planning application process for each wind farm, it would not be appropriate to hold a separate inquiry across a number of applications solely into transportation issues as requested in the petition.

HEALTH

Storage of Embryos

The Petition of people who have embryos stored under the terms of the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act and the regulations made there under and others,

Declares that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009 (S.I., 2009, No. 1582), dated 25 July 2009, a copy of which was laid before this House on 1 July, does not provide for the preservation of embryos whose statutory storage period has expired; is concerned that in circumstances where people have stored embryos under 1991 regulations ahead of medical treatment that renders one or the other of them infertile that the lack of transitional regulations in S.I., 2009, No. 1582 will result in embryos being destroyed against the express wishes of the donor.

Further declares that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority supported the case for allowing people in such cases to have access to further extensions to the storage period.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to bring forward further regulations to allow for the continued storage if embryos for those who actively desire it in order that they might use them to have a family by means of surrogacy and act immediately to suspend the destruction of such embryos where the donors so wish.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report,* 21 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 857 .]

[P000402]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health Department, received 18 September 2009:

Under the current law, human embryos may be stored for five years. In certain circumstances, extension of storage may be allowed. However, this does not include cases where the woman to whom it is intended the embryo will be transferred would be acting as a surrogate. This is because of concerns about surrogacy at the time the legislation was made.

The Government have reviewed the storage provisions, to enable more people with premature infertility to benefit from them. The new legislation will increase the maximum storage period for embryos from five years to 10 years, and in addition will provide that storage can be extended for rolling periods of further ten years (up to 55 years in total) if a registered medical practitioner provides a written opinion that the person for whom the embryo is being stored is prematurely infertile. Under the new system, in cases where it is intended that the embryos are to be used in a surrogacy arrangement and the criteria set out in the regulations are fulfilled, the storage period may be extended.

However, this new legislation does not apply to embryos that have run out of time on 1 October 2009, and which therefore are outside the current legal storage time limits. Although only a small number of women are in this situation, we all appreciate that for them it is tremendously important as it is their chance to have a child. The dilemma is morally straightforward—we are sympathetic to these women and have been urgently seeking ways to help them—but legally it is very complex.

As a result of very careful thought and consultation with our lawyers, we have found what we believe is a solution. We are making an Order under section 64(1)(a) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 to enable the 10 year rule to apply to embryos that are out-of-time on 1 October 2009 on the basis it would be 'supplementary provision' to section 15(3) of the 2008 Act.

The Order will mean that these embryos can remain in storage for 10 years from the date they were first put into storage. Therefore, for instance, an embryo subject to the current five year storage limit that has been in storage for six years on 1 October 2009 will be able to be stored for a further four years. The Order will be effective from 1 October 2009. It does not affect the legality of out-of-time storage before 1 October 2009.

The Government's overriding priority is to have in place a legal mechanism that will prevent these embryos from being destroyed. We have therefore concentrated our efforts on producing the Order to achieve that from 1 October 2009. From what we know of the circumstances of the women affected, that will give them a number of years of additional storage.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Air Guns (Control)

The Petition of residents of North Norfolk and others,

Declares the Petitioners' serious concern at the dangers posed to dogs, humans and other animals by the lack of controls over access to air guns; notes the distress that the loss of a beloved family pet can cause; expresses the Petitioners' sympathy with the Currah family; and considers that the lack of practical restrictions on the use and purchase of air guns needs to be urgently addressed.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to confirm they will take action to enforce the restrictions on the sale and use of air guns.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Norman Lamb, Official Report,* 13 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 128 .]

[P000390]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Home Department, received 12 October 2009:

The Government totally condemn the irresponsible or malicious use of air weapons and has the deepest sympathy for those people who are injured or whose pets are killed or maimed as a result.

The Government keep controls on air weapons under close scrutiny and has strengthened the law considerably on several recent occasions. There is now a range of strict laws against the misuse of air guns, including a prohibition on the sale of air guns to under-18s and controls on their possession in public. No one is allowed to have a loaded weapon in a public place without reasonable excuse or lawful authority. Businesses which sell air weapons are now required to register with the police as dealers and to complete sales on a face-to-face basis.

It is an offence for persons of any age to fire an air weapon across the boundary of premises or to fire an air weapon within 50 feet (15 metres) of the centre of a public road in such a way as to endanger or impede any road user. It is an offence to shoot pets and protected wild birds or animals.

Other offences include trespass with an air weapon, having an air weapon with intent to damage property and having an air weapon with intent to endanger life. The legislation gives courts the power to inflict a range of penalties ranging from heavy fines to life imprisonment for the really serious offences.

There are encouraging signs that the new measures are beginning to work and air gun offences are currently at their lowest level since the 1980's. While this reduction in the number of offences is to be welcomed, the Government are not complacent and will continue to keep controls under review to ensure that the irresponsible, reckless and criminal misuse of air weapons is tackled vigorously wherever it occurs.

TRANSPORT

Public Transport (Lancashire)

The Petition of the customers of Rossendale Transport,

Declares that the announcement by Rossendale Borough Council, that they plan to test the market to ascertain the interest in Rossendale Transport Ltd with a view to a possible sale of the company, is against the wishes of the thousands of people who have signed this Petition; notes that Rossendale Transport is one of the few local authority-owned bus companies which makes a profit; believes that if such a sale were to proceed it could seriously jeopardise public transport services in the Rossendale Valley which are essential to those without access to a car, particularly the young and the elderly; and further declares that up to 200 jobs could be put at risk.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to take any necessary action to prevent Rossendale Borough Council from selling off Rossendale Transport.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Janet Anderson, Official Report,* 20 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 721.]

[P000398]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received on 14 August 2009:

I understand that the situation with regard to Rossendale Transport has changed significantly since this petition was delivered to Parliament.

On the 28th July 2009, Rossendale Borough Council announced that they had decided to halt its test marketing exercise of Rossendale Transport Ltd, having concluded that indicative valuations made by a number of third parties did not meet their expectations. The Council will therefore retain its ownership of Rossendale Transport Ltd.

I entirely share the views of the petitioners that public transport is absolutely essential to a great many people, and the Department continues to work closely with operators and with local authorities to maintain standards in public transport services.

In general terms, it is for local authorities to decide the best model for buses in their area, and since the enactment of the Local Transport Act 2008, local authorities no longer require the approval of the Secretary of State to sell municipally owned bus operators. I believe that this change in legislation is entirely appropriate, and that locally elected councils are much better placed than central government to decide how to obtain the best quality of service, and the best value for money, for local residents.

Taxis (Liverpool)

The humble petition of Mr. Alan Watterson, of 81 Elm Vale Liverpool, the residents and taxi drivers of Wavertree Constituency and surrounding area.

Sheweth, that the livelihoods of the legitimate taxi and private hire trade in Liverpool are severely affected by the cross border hiring of vehicles licensed in neighbouring boroughs; also sheweth that the safety and well-being of the taxi-using public is put at risk by the use of such un-licensed vehicles as their insurance is nullified.

Wherefore your petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to consider amending the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require taxis and private hire vehicles to return to the licensing area when they have completed a hiring that terminates outside of that area.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, etc—*[Presented by Jane Kennedy, Official Report,* 14 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 1P .]

[P000395]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 3 September:

Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) are licensed in provincial areas of England and Wales under Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Drivers, vehicles and operators (that is, those who arrange the hirings) must all be licensed separately. They are licensed by district/borough councils or unitary authorities and the legislation terms the area within which a licensing authority governs PHV activities a "controlled district".

However, travel patterns are, of course, not limited by local authority boundaries and it is inevitable that passengers' requirements will involve journeys across district boundaries. Case law has established that the legislation allows a licensed PHV operator to arrange a hiring from anywhere to anywhere in the country so long as he uses for that hiring a vehicle and a driver licensed by the same licensing authority as granted his operator's licence.

The construction of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 does not readily lend itself to the insertion of a simple alteration of the type envisaged by the petitioners. The principles governing cross-border hirings mentioned above arise from the interaction between sections 46(1), 75(2) and 80(2) of the 1976 Act. Any change to the cross-border hiring principles would necessitate much wider consideration of the Act itself.

While I recognise that the issue of cross border hirings is ripe for review, I am strongly of the view that any consideration of this particular element of the law should be undertaken as part of a wider review of taxi and PHV licensing law.

However, I am afraid that I cannot give any indication of when we might be in a position to undertake a full review of taxi and PHV legislation; this would depend on wider Departmental and Parliamentary resource and timing considerations.

Taxis (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of Hackney Carriage drivers and associates of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire and surrounding areas,

Sheweth, that too many Hackney Carriage licence plates are being issued in the Borough of Wellingborough and that this is causing there to be a surplus of taxis which is stopping drivers making a livelihood and threatening the level of service provided to the public.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to direct the Borough Council of Wellingborough to temporarily suspend the issue of any more Hackney Carriage licence plates until they have carried out a demand survey; and that the suspension be kept until a clear public demand for more taxis has been established.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—[*Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report*, 13 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 129 .]

[P000391]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 11 August 2009:

Responsibility for the issuing of Hackney carriage licences rests with the local authority and it is for them to consider if numbers should be limited, according to the conditions that prevail in the licensing area. Limiting the numbers of taxis is unlikely to be in the best interests of consumers.

Section 16 of the Transport Act 1985, provides that the grant of a taxi licence may be refused if the licensing authority is satisfied that there is no significant demand for the services of Hackney carriages which is unmet. This issue is usually decided by means of a survey.

However, most licensing authorities do not control the quantity of Hackney carriage licences issued. The Department for Transport considers this best practice, and publishes guidance to local authorities to this effect.

Travel Passes (Lancashire)

The Petition of residents of West Lancashire, and others,

Declares that the current arrangements of West Lancashire District Council force disabled people and those over 60 years of age to choose between a national off-peak bus pass and a discounted rail card; further declares that asking people to make a choice between these two items is not acceptable; believes that local passholders should get a better deal, like their neighbours in Wigan and Southport.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to do all in his power to ensure that West Lancashire District Council changes its arrangements so that disabled people and those of sixty years of age are entitled to both a national off-peak bus pass and a discounted national rail card.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—[*Presented by Rosie Cooper, Official Report*, 20 July 2009; Vol. 496, c. 720 .]

[P000399]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport, received 11 August 2009:

Concessionary Travel is a popular and successful policy that gives the opportunity for greater freedom and independence to 11 million older and disabled people. The statutory minimum bus concession guarantees free local bus travel for people aged over 60 and eligible disabled people from 9.30 am until 11 pm on weekdays, and all day weekends and bank holidays. The concession recognises the importance of public transport for older people and the role access to transport has to play in tackling social exclusion and maintaining well-being.

In addition to the Government's bus concession scheme, train companies offer the Senior Railcard or the Disabled Persons Railcard which gives one third off the price of a large range of rail tickets. The Senior Railcard currently costs £26 a year and the Disabled railcard is £18 a year. The terms of this railcard are protected by the Department for Transport through its Franchise Agreements with the train operating companies.

Local authorities, such as West Lancashire District Council, have the power to improve the concession offered in their area beyond the statutory minimum. These local enhancements can include extensions to other modes, such as trams, rail or community transport. Local authorities can also offer alternatives to the bus concession such as a discounted rail card and this is the arrangement that I understand West Lancashire District Council chooses to operate.

Local authorities are best placed to know about local needs and circumstances and must fund any enhancements to the statutory minimum concession from their own resources. Therefore any decision to offer both a discounted national rail card as well as a national off-peak bus pass would be a matter for West Lancashire District Council, taking into account the needs of their residents and their financial priorities.

Petitions

Tuesday 13 October 2009

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Transport (Hertfordshire)

The Petition of residents of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, and others,

Declares that residents of the village are deeply unsatisfied with the current allocation of free school transport from the village of Little Gaddesden to Tring School; further declares that the treatment of children living in the Little Gaddesden pupil catchment area for Tring school is unfair and divisive.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to rectify the situation and provide free school transport for all pupils regardless of the location of their home within the village

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mike Penning, Official Report,* 25 June 2009; Vol. 494, c. 1035.]

[P000383]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, received 22 July 2009:

Local authorities have to make transport arrangements where they consider it necessary to secure an "eligible" child's attendance at school. Where they consider transport necessary, it must be free of charge. Schedule 35B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 defines "eligible children"—those categories of children in an authority's area for whom travel arrangements will always be required. Local authorities have wide discretion in deciding whether transport is necessary, but they must provide free home to school transport for pupils of compulsory school age who are attending their nearest suitable school, provided that the school is beyond the statutory walking distances. These are two miles for pupils below the age of eight and three miles for those aged eight and over.

The Government are committed to increasing choice for all parents and securing fair access to schools—especially for children from low income groups, where lack of affordable transport can act as a barrier to choice. This is why we extended entitlement to free school travel for pupils entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of maximum Working Tax Credit.

This has meant that since September 2007, primary school pupils aged over eight have been entitled to free travel to their nearest school where this is more than two miles from their home. At secondary age, since September 2008 pupils attending a suitable school that is between two and six miles from the child's home, (as long as there are not more than three nearer schools) and those attending their nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief between two and 15 miles, have been entitled to free school transport.

Hertfordshire County Council has advised that the availability of schools in the Little Gaddesden area and the unusual extensive lay out of the village means that the nearest school to a child's home will be different, depending on the location of the home within the village. The layout of the village has resulted in some children from Little Gaddesden not qualifying for free travel as their parents have chosen to have their child educated at a school that is not their nearest school.

With the exception of children from low income families, the courts have held that local authorities do not have a duty to provide free school transport for children whose parents have chosen to send them to a school other than the nearest suitable one; even if it is beyond statutory walking distance

On securing a place at a school, admission authorities must explain clearly whether or not school transport will be available and, if so, to which schools and at what cost (if any). Information about school travel and transport options available to parents must be set out in the authority's composite prospectus.

It is the Government's belief that Hertfordshire County Council, acting through the Local Authority, is fulfilling the school travel and transport duties in providing free home to school transport to "eligible" children from Little Gaddesden to Tring School.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefit

The Petition of members of The Royal British Legion and others,

Declares that some 25,000 signatures were added to a petition delivered to Number 10 Downing Street in support of Council Tax Benefit being rebranded as a rebate; further declares that over a third of veterans and their dependents over 65 live on an income below the minimum required for healthy living and that Council Tax bills are probably the largest household expense for this age group; notes that uptake amongst pensioners of Council Tax Benefit has dropped sharply since the abolition of the old domestic rates system's rebate and that £1.5 billion of Council Tax Benefit is left unclaimed by pensioners each year; further notes that more than half of the ex-Service community think veterans would be more likely to claim Council Tax Benefit if it was known as a rebate.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to commit now to rebranding Council Tax Benefit as a rebate before the time of the next general election.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report,* 21 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 1704.]

[P000367]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, received 12 August 2009:

Improving Council Tax Benefit take-up for pensioners is a key priority for the Department and we are taking active measures, working with local authorities, to ensure people understand, and are encouraged to claim their entitlement.

For example we have made considerable effort to make the claims process easier and change was made last November allowing pensioners to claim Council Tax Benefit and Housing Benefit in a single telephone call at the same time as Pension Credit. We are waiting to see the results of that important initiative.

Even so, the take-up of Council Tax Benefit is disappointingly low and around 10 per cent of pensioners in poverty, or 200,000 people, are there because they do not take-up the benefit. The most recent figures for 2007-08 show that around 62 per cent to 68 per cent of all those whom we believe to be entitled to claim council tax benefit actually do so—the percentage for pensioners is smaller.

We accept that we must do more to remedy the situation and have been impressed with the case made by the Royal British Legion that the name "Council Tax Benefit" is an obstacle to claiming. In recent weeks, the Department has liaised with the Royal British Legion over what can be done in the short term in partnership with local authorities to help them re-market Council Tax Benefit as part of their work to promote benefit take-up.

The Government acknowledge that renaming Council Tax Benefit to reflect its true nature as a tax rebate may encourage more people to claim their entitlement. This is something that we believe is worth doing and we will consider carefully the case for making the change when Parliamentary time and resources allow.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 October 2009

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Gary Critchley

Norman Baker: To ask the Solicitor-General what representations she has received concerning the safety of the conviction of Gary Critchley; and if she will make a statement. [292384]

The Solicitor-General: No representations have been received concerning the safety of the conviction of Gary Critchley.

Police Cautions: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Solicitor-General what proportion of serious violent crimes were disposed of by means of police caution rather than a court appearance in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England in the last three years for which figures are available. [290672]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Information showing the number of offenders cautioned and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for serious violent offences in Northamptonshire and England from 2005-07 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Data for 2008 are due to be available towards the end of 2009.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] and defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for serious violent offences[2], in Northamptonshire and England, 2005-07[3, 4]

	2005			2006			2007		
	Cautioned	*Proceeded against*	*Number cautioned as a percentage of those cautioned or proceeded against*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Number cautioned as a percentage of those cautioned or proceeded against*	*Cautioned*	*Proceeded against*	*Number cautioned as a percentage of those cautioned or proceeded against*
Northamptonshire	20	[5]172	[5]—	32	[5]121	[5]—	27	[5]56	[5]—
England	911	11,233	8	875	10,721	8	666	10,496	6

[1] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] Covers the following:
Homicide and child destruction
Causing death by dangerous driving
Attempted murder
Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent
Racially aggravated wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] The number of defendants proceeded against for Northamptonshire reflects the data received from the magistrates courts. However, during the period covered by the table, there were data quality issues. Hence, it would be unwise to place much credence in the drop of prosecutions over time and thus in the increase in the percentage cautioned if derived.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit, Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

OLYMPICS

CLM: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reasons CLM was paid £60.2 million by the Olympic Delivery Authority in performance-related payments up to March 2009. [289243]

Tessa Jowell: As outlined in the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) 2008-09 Annual Report, performance payments are payable to CLM for the achievement of pre-agreed key performance indicators for the delivery of programme milestones and cost targets.

Payments to CLM during the financial year 2008-09 reflect the increase in scale of the project in the last year as construction activity increased, and the strong progress being made as the project remains on track and within budget.

The ODA, working with CLM, achieved significant savings of £390 million in the last year. The savings derive primarily from reduction in scope and value engineering changes, procurement savings, inflation and VAT savings, and have been applied to cost pressures as they have arisen. In particular, they have been used to help fund the Olympic Village and ensuring that the programme overall can be delivered within budget.

CLM's contract is heavily incentivised and payment to them is dependent on meeting strict performance measures tied to delivering on time, to budget and to a high standard.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much *(a)* her Office and *(b)* the Government Olympic Executive spent on newspaper advertising by publication in the latest year for which figures are available. [289479]

Tessa Jowell: In 2008-09, the amounts spent on newspaper advertising were as follows:

Private office of the Minister for the Olympics—Nil.

Government Olympic Executive—£16,210.44 (comprising payments of £5,551.96 to the Central Office of Information; and £10,658.48 to Sports Recruitment International for advertisements in the Guardian and Timesonline). All advertising expenditure by the Government Olympic Executive was for recruitment purposes.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam, dated 16 February 2009, reference Evans/110209/st/2. [288638]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* On receipt of the letter dated 16 February, my officials forwarded a copy of my response (via email) to the hon. Member's constituency office in February 2009.

Due to an administrative oversight a written response was not sent to the hon. Member's letter of 16 February. I have replied to this letter on 29 July 2009 and apologise for the delay.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the Olympic Delivery Authority in the last 24 months. [280616]

Tessa Jowell: Staff are broken into pay bands across the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). Details of performance related pay (PRP) payments in each pay band for the year ended 31 March 2009 are set out in the following table:

Pay band	*Employee type*	*Numbers of employees*	*Total PRP paid[1] (£)*	*Average PRP payment (£)*
1	Projects/ Administrative support	54	82,937	1,535
2	Executives/ Officers	39	134,746	3,455
3	Managers/ Technical professionals	77	686,708	8,918
4	Heads of function	28	514,882	18,389
5	Directors	7	282,629	40,375
6	CEO	1	[2]104,783	104,783
	Total	206	1,806,685	8,770

[1] Excluding national insurance.

[2] Actual bonus agreed by the Remuneration Committee was £209,566. The CEO voluntarily deferred half that amount.

The equivalent figure for the year ended 31 March 2008 is approximately £1.7 million. A breakdown into pay bands for that year appears in the following table:

Pay band	*Employee type*	*Numbers of employees*	*Total PRP paid1 (£)*	*Average PRP payment (£)*
1	Projects/ Administrative support	45	69,468	1,544
2	Executives/ Officers	27	76,038	2,816
3	Managers/ Technical professionals	66	553,602	8,388
4	Heads of function	26	487,246	18,740
5	Directors	7	316,457	45,208
6	CEO	1	204,930	204,930
	Total	172	1,707,741	9,929

Note:
Excluding national insurance.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for what reasons the Chief Executive of the Olympic Delivery Authority was awarded a bonus of £209,000 in respect of 2008-09; and whose agreement was sought before the bonus was awarded. [289249]

Tessa Jowell: The chief executive of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), David Higgins, has a performance-based pay element within his contract agreed by the Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is linked to delivery on time and within budget. The basis of performance pay is agreed by DCMS and the level is determined by the remuneration committee of the ODA Board.

The ODA's Annual Report and Accounts for 2008-09, copies of which have been placed in the House Library, records the progress in 2008-09. This records significant achievements including:

keeping the programme on track and on budget;

delivering the first venue, Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy in November 2008, on time and within budget;

delivering the £288 million Power Lines Undergrounding Project in December 2008 on time and on budget;

starting work on the Main Stadium, the Aquatics Centre and the Velodrome ahead of schedule; and

meeting challenging cost and health and safety targets.

On the basis of his contract the remuneration committee determined that a performance related payment of £209,566 was the appropriate amount to recognise the chief executive's performance. However, Mr. Higgins said, in July, that he had voluntarily agreed to defer half of his performance-based pay until 2012, subject to the satisfactory delivery of the current programme and scope, within the maximum available funding agreed by the Minister.

As John Armitt, Chair of the ODA said "None of our progress over the year would have been possible without the hard work of the team at the ODA led by David Higgins".

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make it her policy that the expense claims of the Chief Executive of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) be itemised on the ODA's website. [289250]

Tessa Jowell: A summary of expenses for the Olympic Delivery Authority chairman, chief executive, board members and directors is available on the London 2012 website. The summary is itemised for hotel, entertainment and other costs.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the amount of sponsorship and advertising financing by manufacturers and retailers of alcoholic drinks of the London 2012 Olympics. [291360]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* There are a number of possible categories that the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is exploring to raise sponsorship revenue, including in the alcoholic drinks sector. Most previous games have had a domestic commercial provider of beer and wine, including Beijing in 2008.

Currently, LOCOG has no commercial partners for the provision of alcoholic drinks. I am unable to disclose any estimates for this sponsorship category as this would be commercially sensitive.

Olympic Games 2012: Cycling

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the International Olympic Committee on the number of cycling events to be open to *(a)* men and *(b)* women at the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [290665]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* I have not had direct discussions with the International Olympic Committee. However, the Minister for Sport and I have had discussions with the British Olympic Association and UK Sport. I have also spoken to British Cycling on this matter. The International Cycling Federation recently submitted a request to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for new cycling events to be included in the 2012 Olympic programme. The IOC Executive Board indicated that this could happen, especially if the new events increase the participation of women at the games and on condition that they replace events already on the programme. Current events can be replaced with new ones only if the total number of athletes is maintained. A final decision will be made at the IOC congress in October.

Olympic Games 2012: Employment

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) how many of the construction workers at the Olympic Park who are classified as local residents had lived in the area for less than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year prior to their employment at the Olympic Park; [285107]

(2) what criteria are used to classify construction workers wishing to obtain employment at the Olympic Park as local residents. [285110]

Tessa Jowell: Only workers who give a permanent address in one of the five host boroughs are counted as local. The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has adopted the definition used by HM Revenue and Customs and other public authorities which deems a person to be resident in an area from the day they move to a permanent and specific address. As there is no minimum period of residence required for a person to be classified as being a resident, the ODA does not report on this information.

Each worker on the Olympic Park must provide a recognised permanent address. As part of this process UK Border Agency (UKBA) staff work on site with the ODA and contractors to ensure that people employed on the Olympic Park are legally entitled to do so. UKBA have been on the site performing this role since April 2008.

The Government and the ODA are committed to creating a jobs and skills legacy for London and the UK from the London 2012 games. A whole range of measures has been put in place to ensure local people are well placed to benefit from employment and training on the Olympic site including being given 48 hours exclusive access to job vacancies through local brokerage services.

Olympic Games 2012: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the legacy to Hertfordshire from the London 2012 Olympics. [289431]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Broxbourne (Mr. Walker) on 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 162W and 163W.

Olympic Games 2012: Paralympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much funding under which budgetary headings will be allocated under the programme delivery budget for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [284552]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 6 July 2009]:* Of the public sector budget of £9.325 billion:

£8.099 billion, including contingency of up to £1.972 billion, is available to the Olympic Delivery Authority for the venues and infrastructure construction programme;

£290 million has been invested in maximising the benefit to elite and community sport of hosting the 2012 games;

£66 million is the Government's planned contribution to the cost of hosting the Paralympic games;

£32 million has been allocated to the Look programme;

£838 million, including £238m contingency, has been allocated to Security.

I refer the hon. Member to the January 2008 and January 2009 Annual Reports on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and to the Quarterly Economic Reports on the Games published in May and July 2009, all of which contain more detailed information.

Olympic Games 2012: Plants

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what measures she has introduced to ensure that the provision of *(a)* plants, *(b)* trees and *(c)* shrubs for the London 2012 Olympics have a low environmental impact. [291685]

Tessa Jowell: All contracts for the supply of plants are let in accordance with the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) Sustainability Strategy which, among other things, sets standards for minimising energy, waste and water use, and includes transport miles.

As many of the trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and seeds as possible are specified in contract documents to be of British origin for ecological reasons. This is in order to meet the Olympic Biodiversity Action Plan targets for Games and Transformation as well as reducing transport and energy input. Peat-free composts are also specified in all the ODA's contracts for plant supply.

The ODA is also installing an irrigation system to ensure the establishment of all planting. It will use a non-potable water supply, designed to reduce water demand.

Advanced plant procurement has secured approximately 2,000 semi mature trees from a UK nursery. The contract has also been let for the advanced procurement of approximately 240,000 wetland plants from a UK supplier. Current work is ongoing to secure advanced growing of herbaceous plants for 2012 Gardens. Clauses included in the plant procurement contracts require certain environmental standards to be met for nursery stock production and supply of stock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Drinking Water

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what expenditure the House of Commons Commission incurred in commissioning the report on carbon comparison of water provision options for the House's committee rooms. [291459]

Nick Harvey: The cost of the report "A carbon comparison of water provision options for the House of Commons committee rooms" was £7,000.

East of England Regional Grand Committee

Bob Spink: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what expenditure under what budgetary heading was incurred in respect of the East of England Regional Grand Committee meeting of 8 September 2009. [291832]

Nick Harvey: The identifiable expenditure incurred in respect of the East of England Regional Grand Committee meeting of 8 September 2009 is expected to amount to around £1,600. The budgetary headings are travel and subsistence expenses for staff from the Department of Chamber and Committee Services (clerks, doorkeepers, *Hansard* sub-editors) and the provision of sound equipment by the House's contractors Ubiqus UK Ltd. (Westminster Sound Systems).

Internet: Registration

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what guidance has been given on using computer facilities in the House to register domain names. [288682]

Nick Harvey: No guidance on using computer facilities within the House of Commons to register domain names has been issued.

Members: Email

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 948W, on Members: email, what the cost is of the encryption software recommended by Parliamentary Information and Communication Technology service. [288674]

Nick Harvey: The cost of the software per user is £63 excluding VAT.

Members: Parking

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many hon. Members have a parliamentary car parking pass. [291988]

Nick Harvey: There are currently 329 hon. Members with valid parking permits.

Outreach Officers: Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many outreach officers the House employs; and what cost in 2008-09. [289459]

Nick Harvey: The Parliamentary Outreach service currently employs eight outreach staff, six of whom are regional outreach officers. The regional outreach officers work mainly with community and voluntary groups and in the museums, libraries and archives sector. They also support select committees.

Parliament's Education Service employs four educational outreach officers, who work in schools and train and support teachers in the delivery of the political literacy element of the citizenship curriculum and the politics curriculum.

Both these services are bicameral, the House of Lords paying for 30 per cent. of the costs. Current annual staff costs, including pension and national insurance contributions, as at July 2009, are as follows:

Annual cost of outreach, as at July 2009

£

	Total cost	*House of Commons share*
Parliamentary Outreach	351,557	246,089
Educational outreach	182,702	127,891
Total	533,259	373,980

Parliamentary Network: Computer Viruses

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps are being taken to prevent future infections of the parliamentary network by computer viruses. [288679]

Nick Harvey: PICT frequently reviews and updates systems, in line with industry standards and practices, to manage the risk of computer infections.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Leader of the House how many external training courses were attended by staff of her Office in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289608]

Barbara Keeley: Training courses are just one aspect of the development opportunities open to civil servants in the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons, and every member of staff discusses their personal development as part of their appraisal process.

Information on courses attended is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, during the past 12 months members of staff participated in training provided by external training organisations and internal training courses which are provided by the Cabinet Office free of charge.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders: Legal Costs

Robert Neill: To ask the Leader of the House if she will issue guidance on the reclamation of legal fees from the Additional Cost Allowance incurred in challenging an Empty Dwelling Management Order. [290421]

Barbara Keeley: The Leader of the House does not issue guidance on the rules relating to the use of allowances.

Hon. Members may seek advice on allowances from the Department of Resources.

Impact Assessments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Leader of the House for what reasons an impact assessment was not produced to accompany the Draft Legislative Programme for 2009-10. [289807]

Barbara Keeley: The Draft Legislative Programme set out the broad content of 11 bills which the Government are proposing to take through Parliament in the 2009-10 parliamentary session. Three of those bills have recently been introduced (Equality, Child Poverty and Constitutional Reform and Governance) and a further two have been published in draft (Bribery and Flood and Water Management). Each of those five bills is accompanied by full impact assessments. The remaining six bills are new proposals for consultation and, if they are introduced, they will also be accompanied by full impact assessments.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Commission: Publicity

Justine Greening: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission spent on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* poster advertisements promoting (i) voting and (ii) voter registration in the period up to the (A) 2005 general election and (B) 2009 elections to the European Parliament. [281365]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it ran public information campaigns for both elections. Each campaign comprised two phases, the first to provide information on registration, the second on voting.

Expenditure on buying advertising for the 2005 general election campaign was as follows (figures rounded to the nearest thousand):

£

	Registration phase	*Voting phase*
Television	1,361,000	1,915,000
Radio	21,000	811,000
Posters	0	25,000

The Commission spent a further £496,000 on producing advertising for this campaign.

The Commission's expenditure on buying advertising for the 2009 elections to the European Parliament was as follows (figures rounded to the nearest thousand):

£

	Registration phase	*Voting phase*
Television	1,249,000	16,000
Radio	395,000	168,000
Posters	84,000	0

The Commission spent a further £533,000 on producing advertising for this campaign.

Justine Greening: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much the Electoral Commission plans to spend on *(a)* encouraging voter registration and *(b)* encouraging voting through (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) poster advertisements in advance of the next general election. [281366]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it currently plans to spend approximately £2.2 million on advertising for its campaign in advance of the next general election. It is not yet possible to break down this expenditure in the way requested as this will depend on when an election takes place and on the amount of notice given of an election.

Voting Behaviour

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent assessment the Electoral Commission has made of voting behaviour at elections. [289569]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it considers voter turnout and the take up of postal voting at elections as part of its annual election reports. However, it makes no assessment of voter intentions or behaviour in terms of support for political parties.

The Commission will publish its reports on the 2009 European parliamentary elections and local elections in England in October 2009. Reports on previous elections are available on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ambulance Services: Crimes of Violence

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) when he last met representatives of the Northern Ireland Fire Service to discuss attacks on their staff whilst on duty; [289265]

(2) when he last met with senior Ambulance Service officials to discuss attacks on their staff whilst on duty in Northern Ireland. [289266]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI is committed to bringing to justice those who carry out these abhorrent attacks. I have not met with senior officials or representatives from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Northern Ireland Ambulance Service recently. However, the Health Minister for Northern Ireland is aware of my continued concern for the well-being of emergency services staff

Arrests: Civil Disorder

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were arrested during rioting in Ardoyne in North Belfast on 13 July 2009. [289284]

Paul Goggins: As this is an operational matter for the Chief Constable I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Aviation: Meetings

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he last met Northern Ireland Executive Ministers to discuss a regional aviation strategy for Northern Ireland. [289264]

Paul Goggins: I have had no requests from Northern Ireland Executive Ministers for such a meeting. Civil aviation is a reserved matter and is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport.

Bomb Disposal

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many bomb devices have been defused by the Army Bomb Disposal Squad in Northern Ireland in the last *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [289263]

Paul Goggins: Over the past *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel (EOD) have defused 23 and 56 live bomb devices respectively.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising by publication in the latest year for which figures are available. [289478]

Mr. Woodward: The finance system of the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) does not break down advertising expenditure in the detail requested; therefore these figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289668]

Mr. Woodward: Complete data on what proportion of waste was recycled are not available. However, all buildings are involved in recycling. A cross-departmental recycling scheme on the Stormont estate, which covers a large proportion of Northern Ireland Office staff, shows an average recycling rate from June 2008 to May 2009 of 45 per cent.

We are constantly looking at ways to improve recycling rates, for example by providing recycling bins in each office, and new contracts are being put in place to extend the scope of recycling.

The latest assessment of Government's performance against these targets was published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 12 December 2008:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2008/

Departmental Responsibility

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289735]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Northern Ireland (Paul Goggins) has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in the Northern Ireland Office.

The Northern Ireland Office is committed to reforming public services to improve services for the citizen and the Department has established a Business Performance Review Team (BPRT) to implement reforms. BPRT is working closely with colleagues in the centre of Government on this important agenda.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for which non-departmental public bodies and executive agencies he will continue to have responsibility in circumstances in which responsibility for policing is devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [291437]

Mr. Woodward: Those public bodies and their status which will be retained by the NIO at the point of devolution are as set out in the following table. While it is anticipated that parading will not devolve immediately, its future will be determined by the outcome of the Strategic Review of Parades chaired by Lord Ashdown.

Body	*Status*
Crown Solicitor's Office	Legal Office
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	Executive NDPB
Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland	Advisory NDPB
Sentence Review Commissioners	Independent Office Holders

Body	Status
Remission of Sentences Act Commissioners	Independent Office Holders
The Chief Electoral Officer	Independent Office Holder
The Civil Service Commissioners	Independent Office Holder
Independent Monitoring Commission	International Body
Independent International Commission on Decommissioning	International Body
Bloody Sunday Inquiry	Inquiry
Hamill Inquiry	Inquiry
Wright Inquiry	Inquiry
Nelson Inquiry	Inquiry
Office of the Surveillance Commissioner	Misc
Parades Commission	Executive NDPB
Reviewer of police and military powers under the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007	Independent Office Holder (NB Not yet appointed)
Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains	International Body

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289679]

Paul Goggins: The following table details external training courses attended by staff in the Northern Ireland Office in the last 12 months; and the associated cost for each course:

External training courses attended in 2008-09

External course	*Cost (£)*
Accelerated SQL Server 2005	439
Acrobat Introduction	185
Advanced SAP System Monitoring—ADM106	1,800
Advanced Writing	775
Advocacy Course	1,100
AEP Net Technical Training	5,200
Analysis and Use of Evidence for Senior Managers	895
Anti Money Laundering	78
Basic Consultation Processes	305
Business Case Appraisal	900
CCTV User Group Seminar (x2 Staff)	938
CIPD	119
Civil Contingencies	411
Civil Procedure in the County Court	70
Communications and Marketing	500
CommVault v7 Training	2,775
Concepts in Accreditation	1,800
Contentious Costs	823
Contracts of Employment	20
Conveyance Workshop	70
CPD Technical Update	60
CPD Training	1,694
Crypto Custodian Course	395
Crystal Reports XI Level 1	439
Current Developments in Administrative Law	376
Customer Service Excellence	59
Data Protection Certificate	2,330
Deaf Awareness Training	300
Dealing with Conflict in the Workplace	1,512
Dealing with Negative Attitudes	228
Deaths in Hospitals	80
Delivering Project Excellence Seminar	80
Dell San Course Combo	8,000
Developing Applications using Visual Basic	396
Developing Future Managers	1,200
Disability Discrimination	20
Dods Parliamentary Communications	454
Drafting Statutory Instruments	865
Effective Briefing	1,365
Effective Manager 1	1,725
Effective Ministerial Correspondence	755
Effective Presentations for Senior Managers	1,620
Effective Speech Writing	1,350
Effective Writing	1,550
Effectively Tackle Reoffending	811
Employment Law in NI	70
Equality Law Update	907
Essential Media Skills	825
Ethical Hacking and Penetration Testing	1,680
Executive PA Conference	2,026
Finance for Non-Financial Managers	1,414
First Aid Course	190
Gateway Review Team Member to Leader Workshop	400
Health and Safety	200
Helpdesk phone system course	550
High Court Litigation Seminar	60
How can we most effectively tackle reoffending	276
How Parliament Works	530
IFRS Prepare the shadow accounts	1,840
Immigration Law in Northern Ireland	375
Impact Assessment—Equality/Diversity in Policy Making and Service Delivery	440
Implementing the Taylor Reforms	734
Industrial Tribunal Case Law	40
Institute of Internal Auditors—MIIA Advanced Case Study Paper 4	1,069
Institute of Internal Auditors—MIIA revision workshop	588
Introduction to Audit	450
Introduction to Central Gov Finance	475
Introduction to Civil Protection	1,137
Introduction to Infosec	2,725
Introduction to Project Management	430
ISEB Foundation Certificate in Software Testing	1,752
IT Training	382
ITIL Foundation Course	1,590
ITIL Practitioner in Service Level Management	1,100
Land Law Reform Project	65
Lateral Thinking	156
Leadership and Team Building	293
Leadership Challenges for Women in Middle Management	1,145
Leadership Presence	1,395
Legal Professional Training	494
Legal Research On-Line Workshop	140
Libel and Defamation	70
M2261 Course	1,191
M2261 Win XP Ops System	857
M2262 Course	891
M2262 Win XP Ops System	569
M2273 Managing and Maintaining MS Windows Server	876
M2279 Planning, Implementing and Maintaining MS Server Active Directory	876
M2543 Core Web App Tech with M/S Visual Studio	876

External training courses attended in 2008-09

External course	*Cost (£)*
M2547 Adv Windows Forms with MS Visual Studio	796
M2667 Intro to Programming	597
M2780 Maintaining MS SQL Server 2005 DB	3,104
M5047 Implementing and Managing MS Exchange 2007	1,752
Major Trauma and Drug Abuse	20
Management of Risk	1,940
Managing Operational Contracts	695
Managing Successful Programmes Foundation	960
Managing the passage of legislation	430
Managing time	410
Manual Handling Instructors' and Assessors'	1,029
Mental Health Law	315
Mental Health Law and Offender Patients	210
Microsoft Word	100
MIIA Distance learning study course	368
Mind Mapping	1,366
Minute Taking Course	1,330
Mortgage Fraud	90
Mortgage Repossessions	70
MS Access	592
MS Excel	200
MS Excel Intermediate	200
MS Project introduction	412
MS Word	100
MSE2K7 Exchange 2007 Accelerated Workshop	876
New Standards New Challenges	95
ORACLE database 10g administration workshop 2	2,321
Overview of Legislation	315
Parliament Government and the Civil Service	2,500
Parliamentary Questions	430
Personal Development for Disabled People	3,510
Personal Injury Litigation	90
PFI on-depth	224
Piloting your Bill through Parliament	240
Policing, Partnership and Accountability	1,102
Policy, Management and Research in the Historic House Sector	51
Political Intelligence	450
Practice and Procedure in the County Court	70
Preparing Business Cases	1,550
Preparing for an Industrial Tribunal	394
Pre-retirement Course	430
Presentation and Communication Skills	1,200
Presentation Skills	300
Presuming to Interpret	110
Preventing Violent Extremism	217
PRINCE2	755
PRINCE2 Foundation	3,475
Prince2 Managing Successful Projects	1,095
PRINCE2 Practitioner	2,740
PRINCE2 Re-Accreditation	1,657
Programme Management for Fast Stream	795
Programme Management Overview	905
Project Leadership	454
Project Management Survival Guide	2,611
Records Management Diploma	3,768
Resource Budgeting	518
Resource Budgeting Estimates to Accounts	900
Risk Management	834
SCS Base camp	2,000
SDI Service Desk Analyst Course	5,391
Shared experience from triggers 1 and 2	173
Sign Language Taster	150
Six Thinking Hats	902
Special Investigators Group	61
Stakeholder Engagement	1,720
Stress Recognition and Management	65
Sustainable development for decision makers	398
Tackling Difficult HR Issues	403
Thinking On Your Feet	385
Time Management	1,175
Transforming NI	398
Understanding NI Assembly	890
Visio	390
Visual Basic VB.Net Course	2,250
VM Ware Install and Configure Course	9,464
Workshop on Civil Recovery Orders	344
Writing Dynamics	6,776

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* air travel, *(c)* hotels and *(d)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289974]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and excluding its agencies and NDPBs has spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* air travel *(c)* hotels and *(d)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with HM Treasury's "Managing Public Money".

Thousand

		2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Car Hire[1]	Ministers	0	10	8	7	3
	NIO Staff	70	63	42	67	70
Air Travel[2]	Ministers	573	562	637	535	751
	NIO Staff	1,047	1,073	1,107	977	750
Hotels[3]	Ministers	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	2	6
	NIO Staff	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	201	199

						Thousand
		2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Restaurant meals[5]	Ministers	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
	NIO Staff	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—

[1] There may also be car hire costs within other expenditure codes including general travel. To extract these costs, and verify that they are related to car hire, would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £750.
[2] Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.
[3] Up until 2006-07, hotel expenditure was included within night subsistence costs. To extract only hotel costs in these years would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £750.
[4] Figures not available prior to 2007-08.
[5] Expenditure on restaurant meals is included within subsistence or hospitality expenditure. To extract only restaurant meal costs would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £750.
[6] Figures not available.

Devolution

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what timetable he has set for devolution of responsibility for policing to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [291458]

Paul Goggins: The Government favours early devolution of responsibility for policing and justice, in line with the process set out by the First and Deputy First Minister in November 2008. It welcomes the introduction in the Northern Ireland Assembly of a Bill to establish a new Department of Justice, and looks forward to the Assembly approving a resolution seeking a transfer of powers, as set out in section 4 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It is making intensive efforts to clear the remaining obstacles.

Drugs: Sentencing

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* sentenced for drug-dealing offences in Northern Ireland in the last 24 months. [289305]

Paul Goggins: In 2007-08 there were 736 persons and in 2008-09 there were 772 persons arrested for drug-dealing offences in Northern Ireland.

Conviction data for 2007 and 2008 are not available. In 2005 there were 149 persons and in 2006 there were 159 persons sentenced for drug-dealing offences in Northern Ireland.

Data for arrests relate to the offence for which a person is initially charged while data for convictions relate to the offence for which a person is tried. Not all persons arrested for drug-dealing are tried for this particular offence; for instance, if there is insufficient evidence persons may be tried for a lesser offence, such as drug possession.

Both data for arrests and convictions are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Economic Situation

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he last met the Northern Ireland Executive Minister for Trade and Industry to discuss the economic downturn in the Province. [289283]

Mr. Woodward: A discussion on the economy formed part of the recent meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee, attended by the Northern Ireland First and deputy First Ministers, the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary and myself. I have not recently discussed this issue with the Northern Ireland Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Arlene Foster MLA), but she met the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills during his visit to Belfast earlier in the year.

Orange Halls

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks on Orange Halls were reported in each of the last 12 months in Northern Ireland. [289259]

Paul Goggins: As this is an operational matter for the Chief Constable I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service of Northern Ireland stations are planned to be closed in the next *(a)* 12, *(b)* 24 and *(c)* 36 months. [289306]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Army

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times the Army has provided assistance to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in its policing of the marching season in 2009. [289281]

Paul Goggins: As this is an operational matter for the Chief Constable I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: Injuries

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers were injured by rioters at Rasharkin in County Antrim on 13 July 2009. [289256]

Paul Goggins: As this is an operational matter for the Chief Constable I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers were injured by rioters at Ardoyne on 13 July 2009. [289272]

Paul Goggins: As this is an operational matter for the Chief Constable I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: Vehicles

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police vehicles on average were available for duty in the night time in the *(a)* Cookstown, *(b)* Magherafelt, *(c)* Antrim and *(d)* Newtonabbey Council area in the last 12 months. [289260]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police vehicles were damaged by rioters at Ardoyne on 13 July 2009. [289278]

Paul Goggins: As this is an operational matter for the Chief Constable I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisoners: Maghaberry Prison

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dissident *(a)* republicans and *(b)* loyalist prisoners are being held at Maghaberry Prison. [289279]

Paul Goggins: On 22 July, the number of prisoners recorded as being affiliated to dissident republican groups held in Maghaberry prison was 46; there were 112 loyalist prisoners on a similar basis.

Prisoners: Magilligan Prison

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many dissident republicans are being held in Magilligan prison. [289280]

Paul Goggins: On 22 July, there were 11 prisoners affiliated to dissident republican groupings held at Magilligan prison.

Relocation

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have moved house following dissident Republican threats during the last 12 months. [289270]

Paul Goggins: As this is an operational matter for the Chief Constable I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Security

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he last met the First Minister of the Northern Ireland Executive to discuss the security situation in the Province. [289282]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State meets the First Minister regularly to discuss a range of issues, including the security situation.

Terrorism

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many death threats issued by dissident Republicans to *(a)* former members of the security forces and *(b)* members of the public resident in the Magherafelt District Council area have been reported in the last 12 months. [289276]

Paul Goggins: As this is an operational matter for the Chief Constable I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Gentleman, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Weapons: Licensing

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many licences for personal protection weapons (1) have been issued in each of the last three years. [289398]

(2) have been revoked in each of the last three years. [289399]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Young People: Missing Persons

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many young people were recorded as going missing in Northern Ireland over the last 12 months. [289267]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

PRIME MINISTER

Afghanistan

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had with the Chief of the Defence Staff on the announcement he made in Afghanistan on additional personnel, unmanned aerial vehicles, the Warthog vehicle and Ridgeback vehicles. [291572]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others including the Chief of the Defence staff on a wide range of subjects. The Chief of the Defence staff accompanied me on my visit to Afghanistan in August.

Cabinet Committees: Data Protection

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to chapter 1, paragraph 42 of Building Britain's future, Cm 7654, what steps he plans to take to strengthen the protection given to the records of Cabinet committees. [290368]

The Prime Minister: The details of the proposed changes to legislation as set out in Building Britain's Future (Cm7654) will be included in the Government's response to the Review of the 30-Year Rule. The Government response will be published in due course.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Prime Minister whether his Office has received a copy of the report prepared by Bernard Gray on the Ministry of Defence's equipment programme. [291571]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer to the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) on 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 286.

Domestic Visits

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to visit *(a)* the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine's clinical facilities at Selly Oak and *(b)* the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court. [291718]

The Prime Minister: I have visited members of the armed forces both in the United Kingdom and abroad, and have met injured personnel, in Selly Oak and other places, on these occasions. Visits to injured personnel and to hospitals are undertaken privately.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which proposals announced during his speech to the 2009 Labour Party Conference will require *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation to implement; and if he will make a statement; [292314]

(2) which of the proposals announced during his speech to the 2009 Labour Party Conference have previously been announced by the Government *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part, giving the date in each case; and if he will make a statement. [292315]

The Prime Minister: The Government will set out its proposals for legislation in the next session in the Queen's speech. The speech is a matter of public record.

Libya: Northern Ireland

Kate Hoey: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make representations to the President of Libya on compensation for the victims of Irish Republican Army terrorism in Northern Ireland. [291652]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 7 September. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page20542

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks., of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1897W, on Libya, if he will place in the Library a copy of his letter to Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, delivered by the then Foreign Office Minister, the hon. Member for Harlow, during his visit to Tripoli in February 2009; and whether he had a meeting with Colonel Gaddafi at the recent UN General Assembly meeting. [292173]

The Prime Minister: A copy of the letter has been placed in the Libraries of the House. The letter covered a range of African policy issues which were appropriate and relevant in the light of Colonel Gaddafi's election as chair of the African Union. It did not cover the issue of Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi's release. I did not meet Colonel Gaddafi at the UN General Assembly meeting.

Official Gifts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister what use has been made, and by whom, of wine held by Ministers as part of the Donated Asset Reserve in the last 12 months. [290117]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the annual list of gifts received by Ministers in an official capacity valued at more than £140 which has been published since 2001. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House.

Social Care Green Paper

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to his foreword to the Social Care Green Paper, Cm 7673, in what ways the debate he calls differs from that he called for in his Kings Fund speech of May 2008. [290449]

The Prime Minister: "The case for change—why England needs a new care and support system", published in May 2008, set out the Government's intention to reform care and support services and was followed by a six-month period of public engagement to help raise awareness of care and support issues and to gather opinions on the best way to proceed with the reform agenda.

This year's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", published in July, is the response to that period of public engagement. It sets out specific options and proposals for a National Care Service, on which debate shall now ensue.

UN

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library, in respect of the Special Session of the United Nations Security Council on Nuclear Non-proliferation held on 24 September 2009, a copy of *(a)* his speech to the session, *(b)* speeches from other heads of Government referring to the United Kingdom contribution and *(c)* any papers submitted in support of the Special Session by (i) the United Nations and (ii) national delegations. [292491]

The Prime Minister: A record of the discussions and videos of the speeches given can be found at:

http://www.un.org/webcast/sc.html

A copy of my speech has been placed in the Library of the House.

USA

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of the transcript of his question and answer session from New York which was broadcast on Radio Five Live on 23 September 2009. [292332]

The Prime Minister: The interview was conducted for the BBC Simon Mayo show broadcast on Radio 5 live, and can be heard on its website.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on advertising in each newspaper in the latest year for which figures are available. [289480]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office incurred no costs advertising in newspapers during 2008-09.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288934]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office paid 97.9 per cent. of invoices within 10 days of receipt in June 2009.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292070]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Therefore, there was no predecessor in 1997.

The latest staffing levels for the Scotland Office are published in the Office's Annual Report for 2009, a copy of which is available on the Scotland Office website. To view this Report please see the following link:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/files/SO%202009.pdf

A correction to Annex 9 is also available via the following link:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/files/SO%202009%20ERRATUM%203.pdf

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289667]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Reading, East (Mr. Wilson) on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1029W.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the executive functions of his Department are. [288632]

Ann McKechin: The functions of the Scotland Office are set out fully in its annual report for 2009 which is published on the Scotland Office website at:

http://www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/scotlandoffice/10797.135.html

The principal role of the Scotland Office is to oversee the devolution settlement and make it work effectively for the people of Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

Economic Situation

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 381W, on departmental publications, whether his Department will prepare and publish a background paper on *(a)* the effects on the Western Isles economy of the closure of the Hebrides Range and *(b)* the effects of fuel duty on rural hauliers and motorists in Scotland. [291720]

Ann McKechin: No. There is no plan to close the Hebrides Range; and fuel duty is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288935]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I visited Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment.

WALES

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Paul Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what schemes the Government have made available to assist businesses in Wales during the economic downturn. [288901]

Mr. Hain: The UK Government have launched a number of initiatives designed to help UK businesses during the current economic downturn. These include the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, Capital for Enterprise Fund and the highly successful HMRC Time to Pay, which are all supporting Welsh businesses. So far, HMRC has reached over 6,780 agreements with businesses in Wales, to spread more than £100 million in businesses taxes. More information on these schemes can be obtained from the BIS, Wales Office and Welsh Assembly Government websites.

The European Investment Bank has also approved nearly £475 million of loans to small and medium sized enterprises across the UK.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on advertising in each newspaper in the latest year for which figures are available. [289482]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of invoices from its suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288698]

Mr. Hain: In June 2009 my Department paid 87 per cent. of invoices within 10 days of receipt.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292073]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office was established in May 1999. My office currently employs 58 members of staff.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291605]

Mr. Hain: In the last five financial years, my Department's expenditure for car hire is broken down as:

	Spend on car hire (£)	
	Ministers	*Staff*
2004-05	77,153.00	126.00
2005-06	92,866.68	277.37
2006-07	106,707.39	41.02
2007-08	135,649.52	0
2008-09	217,129.45	143.44

The increase in car hire for Ministers in 2008-09 came about because in previous years the Secretary of State's car was provided by the Northern Ireland Office and then the Department of Work and Pensions when he held dual responsibilities.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288744]

Mr. Hain: In the last two years my Department has spent the following using the services of Royal Mail:

	£
2007-08	1,711
2008-09	2,531

Departmental Procurement

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what companies or organisations provided *(a)* goods and *(b)* services to his Department in 2008-09; and what the cost to the public purse was in each case. [289013]

Mr. Hain: To provide the information the hon. Lady has requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289732]

Mr. Hain: I have asked the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to take on the role as the Wales Office's Value for Money Minister. Both he and I take an active role in ensuring that the Wales Office delivers value for money in all its expenditure. We are not a service delivery Department however and thus do not have a public sector reform team.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289670]

Mr. Hain: The last period for which figures are available covers January to March 2009. During this period, the Wales Office recycled 84 per cent. of its waste.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289979]

Mr. Hain: In the last five financial years, my Department's expenditure for car hire, train travel and air travel is broken down as:

					Spend (£)
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Car hire					
Ministers	77,153.00	92,866.68	106,707.39	135,649.52	217,129.45
Staff	126.00	277.37	41.02	0	143.44
Train tickets					
Ministers	11,011.50	7,124.00	6,270.70	11,601.44	14,549.50
Staff	69,951.60	102,599.83	90,371.00	113,758.51	155,685.00
Air fare					
Ministers	4,959.28	0	169.43	676.88	1,156.53
Staff	15,108.30	211.67	9,577.03	1,491.29	2,792.56

The increase in car hire for Ministers in part of 2007-08 and 2008-09 came about because in previous years the Secretary of State's car was provided by the Northern Ireland Office and then the Department of Work and Pensions when he held dual responsibilities. Restaurant meals and hotel costs are not kept separately and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Legislative Competence: Wales

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what guidance his Department has issued on the status of proposed legislative competence orders which have not completed the process of Parliamentary approval at the point of a dissolution of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [290496]

Mr. Hain: Legislative Competence Orders will be treated in the same way as any other form of legislation passing through the Palace of Westminster following the dissolution of Parliament.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Budget April 2009

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many copies of the Budget 2009 Report the Government Equalities Office ordered; and what the cost was of that order. [290266]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office has not purchased any copies of the Budget 2009 report

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what percentage of employees in the Government Equalities Office *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [287090]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) operates a flexible working policy which is available to all staff. The GEO currently does not have any staff on job share contracts. Staff are allowed to work from home, subject to line management agreement based on business need, however central records on the amount of time worked from home are not held.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what procedures apply to the grant of permission for the use of the *(a)* resources and *(b)* offices of the Equality and Human Rights Commission activities related to a private sector organisation. [290430]

Maria Eagle: Permission to use the resources and offices of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) would not normally be granted for activities relating to private sector organisations.

Exceptionally the EHRC approved the use of their offices for a private sector organisation; however this was without the approval of the Government Equalities Office. The use of the EHRC offices for private sector organisation meetings has since ceased.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much funding the Equality and Human Rights Commission has given to Traveller groups; on what dates; and for what purposes. [288252]

Maria Eagle: The following tables contain a full list of Traveller-related work, totalling £344,734, funded under the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Interim Grants Programme, which ran from 1 April 2008-31 March 2009.

Funding awarded to Traveller groups under the 2008-09 Interim Grants Programme

Organisation	*Outcome*	*Region/country*	*Amount (£)*
Friends, Families and Travellers	To develop an environment where Gypsies and Travellers in West Sussex and east Hampshire have the confidence to participate actively in the life of the community.	South East	39,817

Funding awarded to Traveller groups under the 2008-09 Interim Grants Programme

Organisation	*Outcome*	*Region/country*	*Amount (£)*
Gypsy/Travel Education and Information Project North East (GTEIP)	To support Gypsy/Traveller women and Gypsies/Travellers with disabilities to address barriers which prevent them accessing services and their capacity to live free and equal lives. (This will take the form of Action Research; both recording issues and experiences while supporting action on the issues.)	Scotland	21,000
London Gypsy and Traveller Unit	Improved and informed policy development and public profile of Gypsies and Travellers; to include their views and be based on fair and accurate information.	London	39,927
S.P.A.R.C	To improve Gypsies and Travellers access to health care provision and related services in Tees Valley, and reduce the significant health inequalities experienced by older people, children, women and those with mental health issues within these communities.	North East	35,000
One Voice 4 Travellers Ltd.	To provide support and advocacy for roadside Traveller women and children in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire by means of an outreach volunteering strategy.	East Midlands	20,000

Other funding awarded to deliver traveller-related work under the 2008-09 Interim Grants Programme

Organisation	*Outcome*	*Region/country*	*Amount (£)*
Bradford Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS)	To enable Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers to have equal access to services and to represent their own needs and concerns in order to participate in civic life in the District.	Yorkshire and Humber	35,000
Pakistan Community Association and Multicultural Advice Centre	Provide a study support service which allows young Roma people to achieve their full potential and integrate with other ethnic minorities in the area.	Yorkshire and Humber	20,060
Save the Children UK	To improve understanding of prejudice and diversity by marginalised young people(especially young Gypsy/Travellers) by holding workshops to promote and develop key skills.	Scotland	39,930
The Race Equality Council for Gloucestershire	1. To facilitate access to public services for Migrant Workers informing them of services. 2. To improve access to public services including creation of permanent sites for caravans for Travelling Community and better access to education for their children: improved relationship between travelling and settled community. 3. To create opportunities for people of different cultures to meet and learn about each other by experiencing art, culture and music of different traditions: promote an appreciation of benefits of cultural diversity especially in Cheltenham area.	South West	35,000
The Rural Media Company	To work with local authority Planning and Diversity officers, and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups (GRT) (including women, children and the elderly) in the West Midlands bringing them together to develop a DVD Resource to address the racial discrimination issues in local communities around Traveller homelessness and lack of stopping sites.	West Midlands	35,000
Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG)	To develop the capacity of Gypsy and Traveller communities by providing training in project management and equality and Human Rights legislation to ensure these communities are able to participate more effectively in planning and other decision making contexts which effect their lives.	—	14,000

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the annual statements of accounts of the Equality and Human Rights Commission were signed off; and what the reason was for the time taken to sign them off. [288253]

Maria Eagle: The accounts were laid on Monday 20 July. The preparation of the first set of accounts for the Commission was a major undertaking, bringing together the assets and liabilities of the legacy commissions and establishing common standards for measurement and evaluation which needed to be agreed with NAO.

Accounts for the Disability Rights Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality were only laid in May and June 2009 respectively. Information from those accounts has had to be consolidated with the Equality and Human Rights Commission's own figures and this has taken time.

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what payments the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has made to the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) since the EHRC's establishment; for what purposes and projects those payments were made; and whether it has commissioned the IPPR to undertake further work in the future. [288265]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has made the following payments totalling £19,075 to the IPPR:

Payments to Institute of Public Policy Research

Date	*Purpose*	*Payment (£)*
29 October 2008	IPPR corporate subscription includes reports, publications and email alerts. November 2008 to October 2009.	150
1 April 2008	Receipt of interim report on social housing allocation and immigrant communities.	10,000
1 April 2008	Receipt of draft final report on social housing allocation and immigrant communities	8,925

The Commission has commissioned research to examine the allocation of social housing in England. The study is set in the context of increased international immigration to the UK and a reduction in social housing stock.

The Commission currently has no plans to undertake further work with the IPPR.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Industrial Disputes

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many employment disputes involving staff of the Equality and Human Rights Commission have been taken to an employment tribunal. [288269]

Maria Eagle: To date, 15 employment disputes involving staff of the Equality and Human Rights Commission have been taken to an employment tribunal.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff who were made redundant by the Commission for Racial Equality and given redundancy payments have subsequently been *(a)* employed and *(b)* hired as consultants by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [288267]

Maria Eagle: 72 Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) staff received redundancy payments via the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. The CRE may have made direct payments to staff over retirement age. The Equality and Human Rights Commission subsequently re-engaged seven former employees of the CRE on short-term consultancy contracts. More information about the re-engaged staff can be found in the EHRC annual report and accounts 2006-08.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many posts for full-time equivalent staff the Equality and Human Rights Commission has approval from HM Treasury to appoint; and how many such posts are unfilled. [290453]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has approval to appoint 525 posts for full-time equivalent staff. There are no vacancies at present.

Government Equalities Office: Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many flags the Government Equalities Office *(a)* owns and *(b)* maintains; and what the cost of maintaining them was in the last 12 months. [290265]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office does not own or maintain any flags.

Government Equalities Office: Flowers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on flowers in each year since its establishment. [290385]

Michael Jabez Foster: Since its creation on the 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on flowers.

Government Equalities Office: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what proportion of staff working in the Government Equalities Office are *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* from an ethnic minority. [290225]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office employs 102 staff of which 68 are female (67 per cent.) and 34 are male (33 per cent.). 20 (19 per cent.) staff are from an ethnic minority.

Housing: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many official functions she has attended to promote the proposals contained in Building Britain's future, Cm 7654. [290469]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Minister for Women has attended one official function for Building Britain's Future which took place on 27 July 2009 in Hull.

Immigrants: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment the Equality and Human Rights Commission made of the legality of giving priority to local residents in the social housing allocation policies. [288264]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission recently undertook a research project on allocation of social housing. This project did not undertake any assessment of current social housing allocation policies.

International Women's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much her Department plans to spend on promoting International Women's Day 2010. [290382]

Maria Eagle: The GEO has not finalised the plans for promoting International Women's Day 2010 as yet, therefore, we cannot provide a figure.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to reply to the letter to her of 29 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms K Rowley. [287816]

Michael Jabez Foster: My hon. Friend the Solicitor-General (Vera Baird) wrote to the right hon. Member on the 16 July 2009.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to amend public procurement legislation and guidance in order to achieve the Government's policy objectives on equality. [289078]

Michael Jabez Foster: There are no plans to amend procurement legislation. The Equality Bill contains a Regulation making power to introduce specific duties via secondary legislation, which will require contracting authorities to use public procurement to promote equality wherever possible. The specific duties will be formulated in a way that is compatible with procurement legislation, so there should be no need to amend either the Public Contract Regulations 2006, or the Utilities Contract Regulations 2006.

The Government Equality Office is working closely with both the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Office of Government Commerce with regard to procurement related guidance. The EHRC are assessing the requirements for guidance in relation to the Equality Bill and the Office of Government Commerce are also considering what may be required in relation to procurement, including the provision of a new non-legislative toolkit.

Refuges: Domestic Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many refuges for victims of domestic violence she has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [290477]

Maria Eagle: The Minster for Women and Equality visited The Poppy Project, part of Eaves, a London-based charity that provides housing and support to trafficked women, in September 2008. In April 2009 she visited a Domestic Violence Victims Support Unit in Ghana.

No other visits have been made in the last 12 months.

Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research the Equality and Human Rights Commission has undertaken into Travellers. [illegible]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has undertaken the following research:

(i) A review of the inequalities experienced by Gypsy and Traveller communities across the Commission's mandate and public services, building on the race focus of Common Ground published in 2006 by the Commission for Racial Equality.

(ii) An assessment of local authorities' progress in meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in England.

Both pieces of research were published in March 2009 alongside the Commission's report, "Gypsies and Travellers: Simple solutions for living together", which highlights and promotes best practice.

Similar research for Scotland will follow in the autumn.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff from his Department are based in the provincial reconstruction team base in Lashkar Gar; what proportion of such staff *(a)* have left the perimeter of the base by road during their tour and *(b)* are performing roles which could be undertaken at Camp Bastion; and if he will make a statement. [291095]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the response given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2108-09W.

Afghanistan: Detainees

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the US administration on the return of Shaker Aamer to the UK. [289701]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have sought the release and return of Shaker Aamer, a Saudi national formerly lawfully resident in the UK, from Guantanamo Bay since August 2007. The US has not so far agreed to his release and return to the UK in the light of security concerns in his case.

We have made clear to both the current and previous US Administrations that our request for Mr. Aamer's release and return to the UK stands. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has reiterated this position to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Other Ministers and senior officials across Government have raised Mr. Aamer's case with their counterparts in the US State Department, the Department of Defence, the Department of Justice and the National Security Council.

Afghanistan: Elections

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the UN regarding the involvement of the government of Afghanistan in local state elections in that country. [289492]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Over the past two years, the UK has been working alongside Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC), the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the wider donor community to prepare the 2009-10 Afghan elections. This includes preparations for the Provincial Council elections, which will be held at the same time as the presidential elections on 20 August 2009.

The Afghan Government, with the support of the international community, has a vital role to play in both ensuring adequate security for the elections and that the IEC is a functioning body, capable of ensuring effective organisation. The 2009 elections will be the first Afghan-led elections since the 1970s.

UNAMA, through the UNDP, is co-ordinating international support through the ELECT project, to which the UK has given £16.5 million. ELECT aims to build up the capacity of the IEC to run the elections and to create a more cohesive and informed electoral process with as wide participation as possible. We work closely with the UN in Afghanistan and New York on preparations and have frequently played the lead role in raising and resolving issues of concern with the UN, the Afghan Government and international donors.

International funding, both through ELECT and other projects, is supporting media exposure for candidates and civic education for voters, to explain the electoral process and to encourage them to vote. We are following the UN and IEC preparations closely, holding UNDP to account against the project's agreed outputs and pressing for additional action where necessary.

More details on the ELECT project can be found at:

http://www.undp.org.af/WhoWeAre/UNDPinAfghanistan/Projects/dcse/prj_elect.htm

Algeria: Asylum

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Head of his Department's Middle East and North Africa Department has plans to visit the Saharawi refugee camp in Algeria. [290518]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Director of Middle East and North Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no plans to visit the Saharawi refugee camp in Algeria. However, officials from our embassy in Algiers do make periodic visits to Tindouf, with the last such visit in March of this year.

Bangladesh: Human Rights

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Bangladeshi government on reports of violations of the human rights of the Jumma tribes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. [291594]

Chris Bryant: The Government support the work of the Chittagong Hill Tract Commission in promoting respect for democracy, land rights and development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. Officials from our high commission in Dhaka met with the deputy commissioner in Rangamati in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in March 2009 to stress the importance of both implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord and respect for the human rights of the communities in the region. In August 2009, our high commissioner met members of the Chittagong Hill Tract Commission when they visited Bangladesh. Our high commission has offered funding in support of the commission's important work to address the rights of the indigenous peoples.

British Nationality: Torture

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to enable his Department to react more quickly to reports of the torture of British nationals abroad since 2004. [291422]

David Miliband: Ensuring the welfare of British nationals detained abroad is one of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s highest priorities. Consular staff are given training and guidance in how to deal with distressed British nationals overseas, including in cases where allegations of mistreatment have been made. Consular staff are specifically trained on what action to take in response to any allegation of mistreatment. They can also draw on professional support, including from specialist legal and human rights advisers in the FCO.

However, this training and guidance is continually evolving and improving. Guidance is now clearer on the paramount importance and urgency of these cases, on who in London and overseas needs to be informed of allegations of mistreatment when these are made to a consular official, and on the actions to be taken to follow up such allegations.

Our current guidance includes the identification of possible signs of torture and mistreatment, as well as the procedures to be adopted in such circumstances. The first step when a British national is detained overseas is to seek and secure access by our consular staff. Our staff are instructed to ask our nationals whether they have suffered abuse or mistreatment, and to look out for signs of mistreatment even where an individual does not raise it. They are required to follow up all reports of mistreatment whether they come from the individual themselves, from their friends, family or representatives, or from other sources. What form this follow up action will take will depend on the individual circumstances of the case. Most obviously, we can raise our concerns with the relevant authorities. Whatever action we take however, the objective remains the same: to end the mistreatment, and have the incident investigated and the perpetrators of any abuse brought to justice.

In many countries we also raise more general concerns around the mistreatment and abuse of detainees as part of our wider human rights dialogue.

China: Falun Gong

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of China on the arrest and treatment of *(a)* Falun Gong practitioners held in re-education through labour camps and *(b)* other Falun Gong practitioners. [289239]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We last raised our concerns about Falun Gong practitioners at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 12-13 January 2009. We asked how many re-education through labour (RTL) detainees there were and what proportion were Falun Gong. The Chinese responded saying that reforms of the system of RTL were taking place. We will continue to raise this at every appropriate opportunity.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the detention of Mr Liu Xiaobo by the Chinese authorities; what representations he has made to his Chinese counterpart on the case; and if he will make a statement. [289286]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU Presidency issued a Declaration on 26 June 2009 expressing the EU's deep concern about the detention of Liu Xiaobo. The EU called for the end of the prosecution of Liu Xiaobo and his immediate release, referring to the Chinese Constitution's guarantee on the right of freedom of expression and in accordance with provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which China signed in 1998 (but has yet to ratify).

We raised the case of Liu Xiaobo at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 12-13 January 2009. The Chinese Delegation responded by saying his case was being dealt with by the Chinese courts. We also worked closely with our European partners to ensure this case was raised at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue held on 14 May 2009 in Prague.

We will continue to raise this issue at every appropriate opportunity.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the location and detention of General Laurent Nkunda. [292119]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Congolese and Rwandan authorities have stated that they are still in discussions on how to deal with Laurent Nkunda. We understand that Nkunda remains under house arrest in Rwanda.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289507]

Chris Bryant: Human Resources Directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have spent the following amounts on recruitment advertising during 2008-09.

Newspaper	*Spend (£)*
Times	3,238.70
Guardian	35,834.98
Daily Telegraph	8,000.00
Bicester Advertiser	2,437.71
Milton Keynes Citizen	5,159.79
Northampton Chronicle and Echo	5,927.47
Oxford Mail	7,618.46
Bucks Herald	6,264.11
Evening Standard, Metro, London Lite	6,772.03
Total	81,253.25

Consular Directorate in the FCO have spent the following amounts on advertising during 2008-09 as part of its ongoing Travel Safety campaign for British Nationals.

Newspaper	*Spend (£)*
The Sun/News of the World	28,800
The Voice and Weekly Gleaner newspapers	9,500
New Nation and Eastern Eye newspapers	18,000
Total	56,300

It is possible that other parts of the FCO have incurred expenditure on newspaper advertising. However, this information is not held centrally, and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the annual cost of *(a)* maintaining and *(b)* updating the Twitter accounts (i) foreignoffice, (ii) britishabroad and (iii) fcocareers; and how many staff of his Department are responsible for updating each account. [292049]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) maintains a presence on Twitter as part of our wider digital communications strategy. Twitter is a free tool that allows us to communicate the work of the FCO to a global audience who might not normally visit our websites, and at minimal cost.

There is no financial cost to setting up or hosting FCO Twitter accounts. FCO Twitter accounts are updated by FCO staff as part of their existing communications responsibilities. We estimate that @foreignoffice and @britishabroad each takes approximately 15-30 minutes a day to update with an additional 15-30 minutes to assess the uptake of our messages and monitor relevant traffic on other channels. The account @fcocareers takes minimal resource to update since most of its content is automatically generated.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1753-54W, on departmental marketing, what expenditure his Department incurred in departmental branding activity in 2008-09. [290216]

Chris Bryant: During the 2008-09 financial year, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) had no staff specifically employed on branding activity, although some parts of the FCO (for example Consular Directorate) undertake in-house branding activity on a continuing basis as part of their promotional campaigns.

In addition, the Communication Directorate established a three-person team to review, consolidate and simplify all aspects of the FCO's corporate identity. This team engaged the services of a branding consultant, through the Central Office of Information under normal Government procurement rules, at a cost of £80,000 in the financial year. This work has resulted in new FCO corporate identity guidelines, which will enable the FCO in the UK and in posts around the world to save money by deploying standardised designs and systems.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 326-27W, on departmental official hospitality, how much his Department spent on entertaining in 2008-09. [290131]

Chris Bryant: In 2008-09 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spent £7,951,558 on a wide range of activities from entertaining individuals, to dinner receptions for Ministers and high level visitors, and other events to establish and cultivate contacts. All are undertaken in pursuit of FCO objectives, both in the UK and in our posts overseas.

This figure is made up of £7,544,672 in direct entertainment expenditure, which includes the costs of food, drink and sundries when official contacts are entertained either at an officer's home, mission residences or at an external venue, and £406,886 of Government hospitality expenditure, which is official hospitality at ministerial level across Whitehall.

All entertainment expenditure, including that on hospitality, is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289740]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State (Chris Bryant) has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The FCO is committed to improving services and making efficiencies and is working closely with colleagues in the centre of Government on this important agenda.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290586]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office holds the following data on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees, into both the senior management structure and the delegated grades, in the last three financial years:

	FY 2007-08	*FY 2008-09*	*FY 2009-10*[1]
			Percentage
Recruits from a Black or ethnic minority background	2	9	11
Recruits who are female	23	47	52
Recruits with a registered disability	4	4	4

[1] Data for financial year (FY) 2009-10 cover campaigns completed as of end of August 2009.

Further diversity statistics of UK-based staff can be found in the following publication:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/4103709/3476463/departmental-report/dept-report-vol2-2

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289673]

Chris Bryant: During the latest period, 2008-09, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office recycled 59 per cent. of its waste on its UK estate. This compares to a figure of 48 per cent. for 2007-08.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289692]

Chris Bryant: Human resources directorate sponsors three significant courses, which sit outside of the main Foreign and Commonwealth Office training framework. These are:

Open University Scheme:

Programme timings May 2008-May 2009

Approximately 130 persons enrolled

£3,000 cost per person

£390,000 approx total cost

Advanced Apprenticeships:

36 persons enrolled

A part of the Government Pathfinder Scheme which is fully funded by the Learning and Skills Council.

Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development—HR related qualifications/yearly subscriptions:

Number not centrally recorded.

Other departments in London and posts overseas are likely to sponsor other external courses. However records are not held centrally so we cannot provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289994]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively, and all spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

I also refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Fiji: Methodists

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on allegations of persecution of members of the Methodist Church in Fiji; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Chris Bryant: I remain extremely concerned over the human rights situation in Fiji, particularly since the abrogation of the constitution in April this year. Through our high commission in Suva, among other sources, we continue to watch events closely. These include the cancellation of the Methodist Church annual meeting in July and the arrest and detention of church leaders.

We have made our concerns at these and other developments clear to the military regime in Fiji, and have drawn them to the attention of international partners, including the EU. Fiji was suspended from the Commonwealth on 1 September following meetings of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, of which the UK is a member. The UK most recently raised its concerns on human rights in Fiji in a statement to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in September.

Gibraltar: Territorial Waters

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reasons the Government provided to the European Court of Justice in support of its application for leave to join Gibraltar in its action against Spain in respect of territorial waters; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Chris Bryant: On 7 August 2009 the Government requested permission from the Court of First Instance to intervene in support of the Government of Gibraltar (GoG) against the European Commission seeking annulment of Commission Decision 2009/95/EC in so far as it includes a Site of Community Interest (SCI) proposed by Spain which overlaps with British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) (case T-176/09). It should be noted that at this stage, in requesting permission from the court to intervene, we have not submitted our substantive written intervention. We are currently awaiting a response from the court to our request.

The UK is the only state competent to include a site within BGTW on a list of SCIs submitted to the Commission. We have placed on record that the UK does not recognise the validity of the Spanish listing.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the Government did not apply to join Gibraltar's action in the European Court of Justice regarding Spain's claim to Gibraltar's territorial waters until after the deadline for such applications; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Chris Bryant: At the end of 2008 Spain put forward a "Site of Community Importance" (SCI) under the habitats directive which encompasses British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW). As the Commission only consulted each state bilaterally on the sites it put forward, the UK discussed only our own proposed sites (including two in Gibraltar) with the Commission. We therefore discovered the existence of the Spanish site in BGTW only after the complete list of sites across the EU was published in February 2009.

The Government have however, within the time allowed, requested permission to intervene in support of the Government of Gibraltar legal case against the European Commission relating to a Site of Community Interest (SCI) proposed by Spain which overlaps with British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) (case T-176/09). We await a response from the court to our request.

The case does not concern a Spanish claim to BGTW. In fact the case involves an Article 230 application before the Court of First Instance by the Government of Gibraltar for annulment of Commission Decision 2009/95/EC, made under the habitats directive, to the extent that the listing of the Spanish SCI, Estrecho Oriental, includes British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) and an area of the high seas beyond BGTW.

Iran: Bahai Faith

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iran on the detention of Iranian Bahai leaders in Evin prison in Tehran. [290174]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are extremely concerned that the seven leading members of the Iranian Bahá'i community remain in detention, following their arrest in early 2008. Alongside our EU partners we have called repeatedly for the Iranian government to release the group and to allow independent observation of the judicial proceedings.

In a statement to mark the one year anniversary of their arrest, my hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, (Bill Rammell), issued a press statement on 14 May 2009 calling for their release, and on 25 May 2009, the EU reiterated this message in a declaration, urging the Iranian government to reconsider the accusations against the leaders and to allow independent observation of the judicial proceedings.

I met with representatives of the UK National Spiritual Association of the Bahá'is on 2 July 2009, assuring them of our ongoing support, and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister reinforced this message of support in a private meeting with the group on 15 July 2009.

Iran: Sanctions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his EU counterparts extending economic sanctions against Iran to include exported refined oil products. [291548]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The E3+3 invited Iran to re-enter talks about its nuclear programme in April 2009. Iran has yet to provide a constructive response on the issues of concern, but has now agreed to meet E3+3 officials on 1 October 2009.

Iran must take urgent positive steps to reassure the international community that its nuclear programme is for exclusively peaceful purposes, starting at the meeting on 1 October. Should Iran fail to do so, we will have no option but to pursue further sanctions. We are considering the options available and will discuss them with EU partners when necessary.

Iraq: Iran

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the detention of 36 Camp Ashraf residents without charge or trial by Iraqi forces; and if he will make a statement. [292163]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Iraqi Government have given assurances that no Camp Ashraf residents would be forcibly transferred to a country where they have reason to fear persecution, or where substantial grounds exist to believe they would be tortured.

All 36 arrested on 28 July 2009 were released on 7 October 2009 and have returned to Camp Ashraf. The Iraqi authorities have said they intend to resettle all 36 to other countries once suitable arrangements are in place. They had been detained under a combination of charges related to the violence at the camp on 28 July 2009 and immigration violations.

Our ambassador in Baghdad met the Iraqi Human Rights Minister on 6 October 2009 to discuss the detention of the 36. He was briefed on the efforts underway to make arrangements for their release.

During their detention our embassy in Baghdad was in regular contact with the Iraqi authorities, the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The UN confirmed that they have been held in acceptable local conditions. Food and water was available throughout, but the 36 men chose to follow a hunger strike in protest at their detention. Medical care was provided during their detention. The 36 had regular access to the ICRC.

Israel: Overseas Trade

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to introduce legislation to ensure that companies operating out of illegal Israeli settlements cannot trade in the United Kingdom. [289631]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are clear that settlement construction is a violation of international law and so we will continue to press the Israeli Government immediately to freeze all settlement activity. But we have no plans to introduce legislation on the subject.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to ensure that Government departments and agencies do not make purchases from illegal Israeli settlements. [289632]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have explicit policy precluding the purchase of goods emanating from the settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. However, in practice the FCO in London and FCO posts seek to avoid purchase of goods from settlements. A recent example of this is when our Embassy in Tel Aviv stopped negotiations to lease premises in Africa-Israel's Kirya Tower when the company was unable to give assurances that it and its subsidiaries were not involved in settlement construction or support for settler organisations.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the legality of collecting customs duties on exports from illegal Israeli settlements. [289633]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our officials continue to have discussions with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), regarding the import of goods from Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), especially consignments originating from illegal Israeli settlements.

Products from Israeli settlements in the OPTs are not prohibited by the law in the UK. However, in accordance with the EU-Israel Association Agreement, HMRC continue to ensure that all consignments originating from illegal Israeli settlements do not benefit from preferential EU tariff rates.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to discourage UK nationals from buying properties in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. [289634]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK's position has been consistently robust—settlements are illegal, they are a clear violation of international law. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel advice clearly outlines the UK position and that potential purchasers should be aware that a future peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians, or between Israel and Syria, could have consequences for property purchased in these settlements.

Libya: Foreign Relations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent requests he has made to other Ministers on facilitation of cooperation and training with the government of Libya; and if he will make a statement. [292160]

Chris Bryant: The former Prime Minister Tony Blair visited Libya in March 2004 and May 2007 and agreed to co-operate with Libya in the fields of education and culture, archaeology, health, judicial co-operation and training, economic and financial development, defence, counter terrorism, police co-operation and training, tourism, travel visas, migration, development and the environment in Africa. In addition we also co-operate with Libya on Migration, Human Rights, Regional Security and undertake capacity building programmes such as police training and prison reform.

No specific measures of co-operation have been separately authorised by my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary in the past 12 months.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures of co-operation in training he has authorised in respect of Libya in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [292161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The former Prime Minister Tony Blair visited Libya in March 2004 and May 2007 and agreed to co-operate with Libya in the fields of education and culture, archaeology, health, judicial co-operation and training, economic and financial development, defence, counter-terrorism, police co-operation and training, tourism, travel visas, migration, development and the environment in Africa. In addition, we also co-operate with Libya on migration, human rights, regional security and undertake capacity building programmes such as police training and prison reform.

No specific measures of co-operation have been separately authorised by my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary in the past 12 months.

Linda Carty

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contacts his Department's officials have had with *(a)* Linda Carty and *(b)* her legal team on her sentence. [292121]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since we became aware of Ms Carty's case in 2002 we have maintained regular contact with her and her legal team. Consular staff keep in touch with her by letter and telephone and make prison visits. We last spoke to Ms Carty on 9 September 2009 and visited on 25 June 2009.

Consular staff maintain regular contact with Ms Carty's US legal representatives, whom we last met on 29 September 2009, and with the UK non-governmental organisation Reprieve, with whom we work closely on death penalty cases. We have also submitted two Amicus Curie briefs to the US courts in relation to the case, the first in May 2006 and the second on 4 May 2009.

The Government are strongly opposed to the death penalty. We express our opposition to its use on British nationals at whatever stage and level is judged appropriate from the moment when the imposition of a death sentence becomes a possibility. We have made a number of representations to the US Government on this case concerning our view on the death penalty, and will continue to do so.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on progress towards a two-state solution for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. [290060]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the Middle East Peace Process in a telephone conversation with Senator Mitchell on 7 September 2009. We, along with our international allies, will continue to pursue vigorously a comprehensive peace based on a two-state solution, involving a viable Palestinian state living alongside Israel in peace and security.

Niger: Politics and Government

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Government of Niger on that country's constitution relating to presidential term limits. [292120]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK remains concerned about recent developments in Niger that threaten the democratisation process across the region. We are working with EU partners on how we can best contribute to restoring democracy and ensuring stability in Niger, and continue to lobby the regional body, the Economic Community of Western African States, which is leading the search for a peaceful solution, to agree a way forward, working with the African Union and the UN.

North Korea: Human Rights

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in North Korea, with particular reference to the repatriation of North Korean refugees by China; and if he will make a statement. [289287]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As set out in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Annual Human Rights Report, the Government continues to be deeply concerned by the reports of serious, widespread, and systematic human rights violations in North Korea. We raise these issues with the North Korean authorities at every appropriate opportunity. However, the North Korean government refuses to engage. Our ambassador in Pyongyang raised our concerns with the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Speaker of the North Korean parliament in February 2009 during the visit to North Korea by Lord Alton and Baroness Cox. He emphasised the importance of dialogue on human rights and urged North Korea to accept a visit by the UN Special Rapporteur.

The Government have also continued to look for opportunities to engage on the issue of North Korean refugees. We urge China to observe its obligations under the 1951 convention on the status of refugees and to allow the UN High Commissioner for Refugees access to the China-Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) border region. This subject was raised with the Chinese at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in January 2009. We urged China not to return those people crossing the border from DPRK to China. At our request, the issue of North Korean refugees was included in the UN Human Rights Council resolution on DPRK which was agreed on at the 10th session of the Human Rights Council which was concluded on 27 March 2009.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Israeli government on the expansion of settlements in the Occupied Golan Heights. [289625]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK's position is clear on Israeli settlements in occupied territory: they are illegal, a clear violation of international law and an impediment to the peace process. We have made this frequently clear to Israeli government and will continue to do so.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli government on its decision to expand the settlement east of Jerusalem at Ma'ale Adumim. [289661]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK's position is clear: all settlements in the Occupied Palestinian territories, including the west bank and east Jerusalem, are a clear violation of international law. This includes the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim.

We will continue to press Israel to adhere to its 2003 Road Map commitments, including to freeze immediately all settlement activity and remove all outposts erected since 2001. We regard a freeze on the expansion of settlements as a key element in restarting peace talks.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Israeli government on the threatened evictions of Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem. [289862]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We remain concerned by the continued eviction of Palestinian families in East Jerusalem. The UK has raised its concerns with the Israeli Government and calls on Israel to suspend these eviction notices immediately.

We fully support the action the EU presidency has taken to do likewise and their 21 July 2009 statement on the issue.

Overseas Residence: Pets

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to reduce the number of pets abandoned by UK expatriates returning to the UK. [291562]

Chris Bryant: While the abandonment of domestic animals by UK expatriates on their return is sadly not unheard of, it is difficult to see what action my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary could take to prevent it and consequently there are no plans to take steps to reduce the number of pets abandoned by UK expatriates returning to the UK.

Pakistan: Blasphemy

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the domestic blasphemy laws on human rights in Pakistan. [292310]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK continues to have concerns about the effect of blasphemy laws on human rights in Pakistan.

Together with our EU partners, the UK has encouraged the Government of Pakistan to repeal or amend its blasphemy laws to reduce the widespread misuse of this legislation to discriminate against minority groups. In December 2008, the EU called upon the Government of Pakistan to promote tolerance, to effectively protect freedom of belief and freedom of expression and to reform discriminatory legislation such as the blasphemy laws. In August 2009, the EU also raised the attacks on Christians in Gojra with the Pakistan Foreign Minister.

We continue to encourage Pakistan to fulfil its commitments under the UN Human Rights Council. During the last Universal Periodic Review in May 2008, we secured a commitment from the Government of Pakistan that checks would be introduced to regulate investigations into allegations of blasphemy that affect minority groups.

Pakistan: Christianity

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the government of Pakistan on the attacks on Christians *(a)* in Korian and Gojra and *(b)* elsewhere in Pakistan; what response has been received; and if he will make a statement. [292398]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns any persecution on grounds of faith or religious belief. Incidents such as the attacks on Gojra and Korian are examples of the discrimination faced by religious minorities in Pakistan.

The UK regularly raises human rights concerns both bilaterally with the Government of Pakistan and together with our EU partners. The latest attacks on the Christian community have been strongly condemned by both the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan. And the Government of Pakistan has announced a package of compensation for those affected by the attacks.

Following the attacks, our high commissioner in Islamabad raised our concerns about the attack in Gojra with the Chief Minister of Punjab, Shahbaz Sharif. Mr. Sharif assured the high commissioner that the perpetrators would be brought to justice and that he had instructed the Lahore High Court to conduct an inquiry.

Petar Sutovic

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Serbian government on *(a)* the death of Petar Sutovic in Belgrade in 2004 and *(b)* the subsequent removal of his organs. [292147]

Chris Bryant: We have raised various aspects of the investigation into Petar Sutovic's death with the Serbian Government at the family's request and continue to make requests for information on behalf of the Walthamstow Coroner's Office which is conducting a second inquiry into Petar's death. We requested information from the Serbian Government regarding the removal of organs and we await a reply.

Punjab: Religious Freedom

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the status of religious minorities in the Punjab province of Pakistan. [292311]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK continues to view the difficult situation facing religious minorities in the Punjab and indeed all of Pakistan as a cause for concern. The latest attacks on the Christian community in Gojra and ongoing persecution of the Ahmadiyya community are examples of the dangers faced by religious minorities, and serve as reminders of the need to protect the religious freedom of all Pakistanis.

Alongside our EU partners, the UK continues to encourage the Government of Pakistan to repeal or amend the blasphemy laws to reduce the widespread misuse of this legislation to discriminate against minority groups. In December 2008, the EU called upon the

Government of Pakistan to promote tolerance, to effectively protect freedom of belief and freedom of expression and to reform discriminatory legislation such as the blasphemy laws. In August 2009, the EU also raised the attacks on Christians in Gojra with the Pakistan Foreign Minister.

We continue to encourage Pakistan to fulfil its commitments under the UN Human Rights Council. During the last Universal Periodic Review in May 2008, we secured a commitment from the Government of Pakistan that checks would be introduced to regulate investigations into allegations of blasphemy that affect minority groups.

Security

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred on engaging private security companies and private military companies for work undertaken in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last three years. [291779]

Chris Bryant: The total values of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's contracts with private security companies in Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last three years are as follows. We do not contract with private military companies.

Iraq

	£ million
2006-07	31.1
2007-08	30.8
2008-09	27.9

Afghanistan

	£ million
2006-07	15.3
2007-08	20.9
2008-09	22.2

The figures above cover contracts put in place by London, and reflect in the main the contract values and not the expenditure. They also now include contract variations and have also been calendar-year annualised. These contracts also cover Partners Across Government with the costs thereof being shared out accordingly.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the Government is giving to the government of Sri Lanka to implement political and constitutional reforms. [291526]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We regularly discuss with the Sri Lankan Government the need for an inclusive political solution to address the underlying causes of the recent conflict. It is ultimately for the Sri Lankan people to decide what a solution must look like, but we believe it would need to be based on equality, consent and rule of law. The All Party Representative Committee (APRC) was set up by the Sri Lankan President to build consensus on political reforms. In 2008, we funded a visit by APRC members to England, Wales and Northern Ireland to share our experiences of devolution, and peace building in Northern Ireland. We encourage the Government of Sri Lanka to reach a satisfactory conclusion of the APRC process as soon as possible.

Sudan: Females

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Sudanese Government on the imprisonment of Lubana al-Hussein and the punishment of women arrested with her for wearing trousers. [291657]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We raise human rights issues in Sudan through the EU and we have been in regular discussion with EU representatives in Khartoum and Stockholm regarding the arrests and trial. We have also made representations to the Government of Sudan (GoS) during the current session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and highlighted the case in a statement to the Council on 15 September 2009.

Whilst we welcome the release of Ms Hussein on 8 September 2009, we continue to call upon the Government of Sudan to act in the spirit of the rights set out in the Interim National Constitution and in particular the Bill of Rights provision that no person should be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 291W, on Western Sahara: fisheries, if he will make it his policy to seek the inclusion of a reference to the territorial extent of Morocco in any proposed agreement on fisheries between the EU and Morocco. [289327]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have no plans at present to seek the inclusion of a reference to the territorial extent of Morocco in any future EU fisheries agreement with Morocco.

Future negotiations on the expiry of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement in 2011 will take into account any changes that may occur before that time.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the establishment of a human rights monitoring mechanism in the Western Sahara. [290401]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK supports the call by the UN Secretary General, in his latest report on the UN Mission for Referendum in the Western Sahara (MINURSO), for the parties to remain engaged in a continuous and constructive dialogue with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to make progress on the human dimension of the conflict.

The Government believe that greater openness and transparency on human rights by all the parties in the Western Sahara could create a significantly better environment for political dialogue between the parties.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in attendance allowance to residents of *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England in (i) 1980, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2008. [289405]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is shown in the table.

Attendance allowance, expenditure: Cash terms

£ million

	1980-81	*1997-98*	*2001-02*	*2005-06*	*2008-09*
Hemel Hempstead	—	2.9	3.8	5.9	6.9
Dacorum	—	4.2	5.4	8.2	9.6
Hertfordshire	—	36.4	46.1	63.2	74.4
England	—	2,073	2,566	3,200	3,929

Notes:

1. Figures are expressed in £ million and rounded to the nearest £100,000 for all areas except England which is rounded to the nearest £1 million.
2. Expenditure is in cash (nominal) terms.
3. Figures given for Hemel Hempstead represent the Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency.
4. Figures given for Dacorum represent Dacorum local authority.
5. Figures given for Hertfordshire represent the county of Hertfordshire which is made up of the following local authorities: Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Hertfordshire, Hertsmere, North Hertfordshire, St. Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers, Watford, Welwyn Hatfield.
6. Expenditure for 1980 is not available for these areas.
7. Figures are consistent with benefit expenditure tables available on the DWP website through the following link: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Source: DWP statistical and accounting data.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on proposals to abolish attendance allowance outlined in the recent Green Paper, "Shaping the future of care together", in the last five months; and if she will make a statement. [292102]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department of Health's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", was a product of very close working between Government Ministers across a number of Departments, including the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

Attendance Allowance: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in attendance allowance to residents of the Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2008. [291447]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is provided in the following table.

Total value of attendance allowance payments to people in the Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath parliamentary constituency in 2001, 2005 and 2008

	£ million (nominal terms)
2001-02	5.3
2005-06	6.9
2008-09	7.9

Notes:

1. Figures are consistent with budget 2009 expenditure forecast.
2. Benefit and expenditure and caseload information is available on the Department website at:

http://reasearch.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

Source:

DWP Statistical and Accounting data

Carer's Allowance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have ceased to receive carers allowance due to the receipt of *(a)* a pension and *(b)* an other income replacement benefit in (i) St Ives constituency, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) England in each of the last five years. [287927]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table:

Number of people who ceased to receive carer's allowance when they began claiming state pension or another income replacement benefit

March to February each year	*St. Ives parliamentary constituency*	*Cornwall unitary authority*	*England*
2004-05	20	100	7,410
2005-06	20	150	7,740
2006-07	30	170	9,120
2007-08	40	180	10,020
2008-09	30	160	10,140

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data show those people who ceased receiving carer's allowance and began receiving state pension or another income replacement benefit in the same quarter but retained underlying entitlement.

Source:

Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 690W, on carer's allowance, if she will extend carer's allowance to include a costs-related element. [289331]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans to extend carer's allowance to include a costs-related element.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people were eligible to receive carer's allowance in each local authority area on the latest date for which figures are available; [289390]

(2) how many and what proportion of people were in receipt of carer's allowance in each local authority area on the latest date for which figures are available. [289391]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information has been placed in the Library.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on the administration of carer's allowance in the last five years. [289707]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the administration costs for carer's allowance over the last five financial years.

	Total (£)
2004-05	18,703,511
2005-06	19,765,641
2006-07	20,189,552
2007-08	18,881,544
2008-09	15,912,162

Notes:
Total administration costs include:
1. Staff: including salaries, national insurance, superannuating, overtime costs and other payroll adjustments.
2. Non staff: including medical evidence costs, travel, subsistence, postage and general office expenses i.e. stationery.
3. Recharges: payments given to take account of additional costs incurred piloting changes to working practises.
Source:
General ledgers (GL) and expenditure reports.

Carer's Allowance: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Hemel Hempstead constituency *(a)* are entitled to and *(b)* receive carer's allowance. [289438]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table:

People in Hemel Hempstead constituency who are entitled to and receiving carer's allowance at November 2008

	Number
All entitled cases	1,080
Cases in payment	610

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Work and Pensions Longitudinal study 100 per cent.

Children: Maintenance

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents resident in Wales defaulted on child support payments in each of the last five years. [291172]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents resident in Wales defaulted on child support payments in each of the last five years. [291172]

Information on the number of cases where the non-resident parent is not compliant and is living in Wales is provided in the attached table. This includes child maintenance cases held on both the current (CS2) and old (CSCS) computer systems and excludes cases administered clerically.

Quarterly figures as at June 2009 show 73% of non-resident parents living in Wales are compliant with their child maintenance payments.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of non-compliant cases where the non-resident parent lives in Wales

June each year	*Cases where maintenance requested*	*Non-compliant cases*	*Percentage compliant*
2005	28,700	9,200	68
2006	29,700	8,200	72
2007	32,100	9,200	71
2008	32,700	9,500	71
2009	32,100	8,600	73

Notes:
1. This table shows the number of cases that were charged money via the Agency's collection service over a three month period and the number of cases from which a payment was not received from over the same period.
2. Cases have been allocated to Wales by matching the residential postcode of the non-resident parent against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
3. Figures cover cases held on the CS2 and CSCS computer systems only and exclude the performance of cases administered clerically.
4. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Cold Weather Payments: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cold weather payments have been made to residents of Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each year since 2003. [291702]

Helen Goodman: Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency is linked to Coleshill weather station. The number of times cold weather payments have been triggered at this weather station in each year since 2002-03 is given in the following table.

Cold weather payment triggers at Coleshill weather station

	Number
2002-03	1
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	0
2008-09	3

Source:
DWP records

It is not possible to give the estimated number of payments made in 2002-03 and 2008-09 to residents of Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency as this information is not available at constituency level but only by weather station, and Coleshill weather station covers a wider area than just this constituency.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* Blackberrys and *(c)* laptop computers have been issued to staff of her Department in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following (A) loss or (B) theft of a previous device. [290409]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The information that is available is provided in the following tables.

	Numbers issued		
Devices	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Mobile telephones	n/a	2,583	4,810
Blackberry devices	n/a	363	536
Laptop computers	[1]8,224	[1]6,818	[1]8,848

n/a = Not available.

[1] Number of active laptop computers in issue at 31 March 2009.

The Department's records do not differentiate between items issued to new or existing staff, nor whether items were replaced as a result of loss, theft or other reasons. These details could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of Blackberry devices which were replaced for any reason during 2007 and 2008 is as follows:

	Number of devices replaced
2007	22
2008	11

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average length of employment of staff of her Department at each Civil Service payband. [290412]

Jim Knight: The following table shows, at 31 March 2009, the average length of time staff have been employed at the Department for Work and Pensions and its predecessor organisations, broken down by grade.

Grade	*Average length of service years*
Administrative Assistant	8
Administrative Officer	9
Executive Officer	22
Higher Executive Officer	24
Senior Executive Officer	26
Grade 7	23
Grade 6	24
Senior Civil Servants	21

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 909W, on departmental official hospitality, how much her Department spent on hospitality and entertainment in 2008-09. [290176]

Jim Knight: The 2008-09 accounts have now been published and the expenditure on hospitality can be confirmed as £116,652.

All expenditure on entertainment (also known within the Department as hospitality) is made in accordance with published Departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff took paternity leave from her Department in each of the last five years; and what the average duration of such leave was. [290414]

Jim Knight: The total number of staff in DWP that took paternity leave and the average length of such leave is shown in the following table.

	Number of staff taking paternity leave	*Average duration (days)*
1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009[1]	73	13
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	413	14
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	408	13

[1] Information for the current year is available for the first quarter.

Information is available from April 2007 when the Department introduced a new personnel computer system. Information prior to April 2007 is held on a number of legacy systems. The cost of extracting this information from these in the format requested for the period prior to April 2007 would be at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of her Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290416]

Helen Goodman: There are two pay-related employee reward schemes operating in the Department for Work and Pensions. These are the end of year non-consolidated performance pay and special awards.

End of Year non-consolidated Performance Pay

DWP employees below the Senior Civil Service are eligible for an annual individual non-consolidated performance payment if they attain a "Top", "Higher" or "Majority" rating under the annual Performance and

Development System. The payment awarded is determined by the employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the Senior Civil Service, end of year non-consolidated performance pay is determined by the relevant DWP SCS Pay Committee, in line with recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

[1] Performance awards from the year 2008-09 were payable in July of the financial year 2009-10. A total of £21.81 million has been paid. This is broken down as follows:

Table 1: Department total

Financial year	*Total number of recipients*	*Total paid (£ million)*
2005-06	123,825	42.82
2006-07	116,096	40.68
2007-08[1]	111,943	36.61
2008-09	107,726	23.32
2009-10	109,334	21.81

Table 2: Total below SCS

Financial year	*Total number of recipients*	*Total paid (£ million)*
2005-06	123,620	41.43
2006-07	115,896	39.01
2007-08	111,741	34.88
2008-09	107,518	21.50
2009-10	109,125	20.05

Table 3: Total SCS

Financial year	*Total number of recipients*	*Total paid (£ million)*
2005-06	205	1.39
2006-07	200	1.67
2007-08	202	1.73
2008-09	208	1.82
2009-10	209	1.76

Special Awards

Individuals may also be entitled to a Special Award either as cash or retail vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year and are not linked to the annual pay award. Payments are made to recognise exceptional achievements beyond what would normally be expected.

Information on Special Awards prior to 2007-08 is not available.

Some individuals may have received more than one voucher during the year.

Table 4: Cash payments

Financial year	*Total number of recipients*	*Total paid (£ million)*
2007-08	11,250	2.70
2008-09	14,612	3.04

Table 5: Voucher payments

Financial year	*Total number of vouchers issued*	*Total paid (£ million)*
2006-07	14,392	0.9
2007-08	31,237	1.77
2008-09	28,869	1.03

Loyalty and Recognition Award Scheme

The Department also has a Loyalty and Recognition scheme that allows staff who have completed 25 years service the choice of receiving an award of either a gift up to the value of £250 or an additional 37 hours (36 in London Pay Zones) special leave with pay regardless of the hours they work.

The following table shows the total number of staff awarded the Loyalty and Recognition Award in each year since April 2007. This has been broken down to show the number of staff who received the additional special leave and the days taken, the number who received the financial gift and the total cost of financial gift payments.

It is not possible to provide the monetary value of the additional special leave taken because information is not recorded in this format.

Information about the Loyalty and Recognition Scheme was not recorded centrally prior to April 2007. The cost of extracting this information in the format requested for the period prior to April 2007 would be at a disproportionate cost.

Table 6: Loyalty and recognition awards

Financial year	*Total number of staff awarded the 25 year loyalty and recognition award*	*Total number of staff who opted to receive the additional special leave*	*Total number in days of additional special leave taken*	*Total number of staff who opted to receive the financial gift*	*Total cost of financial gift payments (£)*
2007-08	468	257	1,328	211	50,748.64
2008-09	731	192	909	539	106,495.88

Notes:

1. The information in tables 1 and 2 is based on the numbers of employees recorded on the DWP payroll systems as having received a qualifying performance mark. These are headcount.
2. Some individuals may have received more than one type of bonus payment in the year, which is why the information has been presented separately and not as an aggregated total.
3. The performance bonus is paid in the financial year following the performance year of 1 April to 31 March 2009.
4. The total amount paid includes Employers National Insurance Contribution (ERNIC).
5. In-year cash bonus data were previously held on a separate IT system. Data from this system can only be obtained from a third party and there would be a cost ascribed to this provision. This would bring the cost of answering this PQ to above the threshold considered proportionate.

These figures are the best available.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Minister in her Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in her Department; whether her Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if she will make a statement. [289731]

Jim Knight: I have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money within the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

DWP established a departmental wide change programme in 2007 in order to transform the way services are delivered, so that we transform the quality of customer service and drive up the efficiency of our delivery. Transforming DWP means putting the customer at the heart of everything we do.

DWP is committed to being an exemplar of effective service delivery and we are the first Government Department to have a Department Strategic Objective (DS07) to this effect. To support this we are developing and delivering new integrated services so that DWP customers will have their needs met through a single contact with us most of the time. We are also offering customers greater choice on how they access services and have an ambition to have most of our services available online for those that prefer to use this channel.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of her Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289618]

Jim Knight: Included within the targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate is a requirement for Departments to achieve recycling rates of 40 per cent. by 2010 and 75 per cent. by 2020. The Department already surpasses the initial target and is well on track to achieve the longer term objective.

The following table shows the total measurable waste produced by the Department and the amount recycled for the year ended 31 March 2009 compared with the year ended 31 March 2008.

Total measurable waste

	Year ended 31 March 2008	*Year ended 31 March 2009*
Total Measurable Waste Produced (metric tonnes)	20,343	19,514
Recycling (metric tonnes)	12,952	12,824
Recycling as percentage of Total Waste Produced	64	66

Elderly: Charities

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support her Department has given to charities which help the elderly in each of the last six years. [289709]

Angela Eagle: My Department works closely with a wide range of organisations both large and small, to ensure the voice of older people is heard. Funding from Government is not necessarily provided direct to charitable organisations, however, they can receive support through a range of processes.

For example, our LinkAge Plus pilots provided funding (£10 million) and engaged with local government, voluntary and community sectors including charities to ensure better information and access to services, putting older people at the forefront of service design and delivery.

More recently, my Department, along with DCSF, DH and the Office for the Third Sector is financing a £5.5 million programme to fund 12 sites encouraging intergenerational volunteering. These sites will be run by local authorities in partnership with the third sector including charities.

The Department funds partnerships between, for example, local authorities and voluntary groups. It is not possible to easily identify the proportion which goes to charities.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received housing benefit in (i) North West Cambridgeshire, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iii) Peterborough, (iv) Huntingdonshire and (v) England in each of the last five years. [291480]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available in the format requested; the available information is in the following tables.

Housing benefit recipients May 2005 to May 2007

	May 2005	*May 2006*	*May 2007*
England	3,314,600	3,357,980	3,401,590
Cambridgeshire	24,310	24,930	25,560
Peterborough	11,340	11,480	11,940
Huntingdonshire district council	5,420	5,680	5,880

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Figures for Cambridgeshire include Huntingdonshire district council; Cambridge city council; South Cambridgeshire district council; East Cambridgeshire district council; and Fenland district council.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent caseload stock-count taken in May 2005 to May 2007.

Housing benefit recipients November 2008 to May 2009

	November 2008	*May 2009*
England	3,538,690	3,738,890
Cambridgeshire	27,300	29,300
Peterborough	13,020	14,090
Huntingdonshire district council	6,450	7,030

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. The earliest available data for the Single Housing Benefit Extract are for November 2008.
6. Figures for Cambridgeshire include Huntingdonshire district council; Cambridge city council; South Cambridgeshire district council; East Cambridgeshire district council; and Fenland district council.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) for November 2008 and May 2009.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost to registered social landlords of the introduction of direct payment of local housing allowance in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* each of the next five years. [291580]

Helen Goodman: Local housing allowance rules are not applied to registered social landlord cases. Therefore, direct payments will have no impact on this group.

Housing Benefit: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency were in receipt of housing benefit in each on the latest date for which figures are available. [291555]

Helen Goodman: Housing benefit information is not available at constituency level.

Housing Benefit: Reform

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to *(a)* commence and *(b)* conclude her review of the outcomes of the reforms of the housing benefit system. [291577]

Helen Goodman: As was set out earlier this year in 'Building Britain's Future', we intend to consult on the reform of housing benefit later on this year. No decision has yet been made about the exact timing of the consultation exercise.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claims ended in each quarter of each of the last 12 years *(a)* because the claimant (i) died, (ii) returned to work and (iii) was moved on to each different type of benefit and *(b)* for another reason; [291278]

(2) how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants who had left the benefit since the introduction of employment and support allowance did so because the claimant *(a)* is now deceased, *(b)* has returned to work and *(c)* has moved onto another benefit, broken down by benefit type, up to the end of February 2009. [291282]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Perth

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed incapacity benefit in Perth and North Perthshire constituency in each of the last three years. [289517]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is provided in the following table:

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Perth and North Perthshire constituency for quarters ending November 2006 to November 2008

November	*Number*
2006	4,130
2007	4,180
2008	4,030

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures excluded employment and support allowance introduced in October 2008 for new claimants. 3. Data are published at: www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:
Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent.

Jobcentre Plus

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobs were advertised in Jobcentre Plus offices in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month of the last five years. [289195]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many jobs advertised in Jobcentre Plus offices were sourced through recruitment agencies in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month of the last five years; [289470]

(2) how many people have found employment from jobs advertised in Jobcentre Plus which are sourced from recruitment agencies in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month of the last five years. [289471]

Jim Knight: The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Buildings

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job centres are located in buildings which are not owned by the Government. [289268]

Jim Knight: There are 741 Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public that are in buildings not owned by the Government. These premises are supplied to Jobcentre Plus by our Estate Services Provider, Telereal Trillium, under the PRIME contract arrangements.

Jobcentre Plus: Complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, how many formal complaints of each type were received by Jobcentre Plus in each region in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [290825]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking, with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, how many formal complaints of each type were received by Jobcentre Plus in each region in (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10 on the latest date for which figures are available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus operates a three-tiered feedback process in response to issues raised by customers:

level 1 is feedback received at a specific Jobcentre Plus Office responded to by the Site Manager;

level 2 is feedback received by the District Manager or feedback not resolved at level 1;

level 3 is feedback received direct by the Chief Executive, particularly correspondence from MPs, or feedback not resolved at level 2.

The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Level 1 and 2 complaints received by Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus region	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
East Midlands	948	381
East of England	3,901	1,981
London	4,008	2,230
North West	3,672	1,296
North East	2,125	1,002
Scotland	3,841	1,425
South East	4,435	2,020
South West	5,783	2,253
West Midlands	3,540	1,611
Wales	2,883	1,266
Yorkshire and Humberside	2,853	1,588

Level 3 complaints received by Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus region	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
East Midlands	304	77
East of England	474	214
London	781	284
North West	379	175
North East	159	55
Scotland	250	111
South East	636	277
South West	391	134
West Midlands	207	86
Wales	228	101
Yorkshire and Humberside	245	79

The figures for 2009/10 are up to the end of July.

Jobcentre Plus: Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* Jobcentre Plus staff in each district and *(b)* Pension Service staff received bonuses in each month of (i) 2009-10 to date, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2007-08. [286640]

Jim Knight: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether she has recently changed the number of hours of training for *(a)* personal advisers, *(b)* decision makers, *(c)* disability benefit advisers and *(d)* specialist lone parents advisers who are (i) new employees and (ii) existing Jobcentre Plus employees; and if she will make a statement. [289304]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking whether she has recently changed the number of hours of training for (a) personal advisers, (b) decision makers, (c) disability benefit advisers and (d) specialist lone parents advisers who are (i) new employees and (ii) existing Jobcentre Plus employees; and if she will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The total hours of learning and product sets for advisers, decision makers, disability benefit advisers and specialist lone parent advisers has not changed.

However, to support the current high volume of new recruits taking up these roles, we have prioritised the learning programme that they undertake.

New recruits will initially complete prioritised learning products to enable them to take up their positions. This prioritised routeway does not replace the full standard learning product set as the remaining products are completed once the individual has taken up post, within a timeframe determined by their local managers. By way of illustration, a newly recruited adviser will complete 130 hours of prioritised learning prior to taking up post and the remaining 85 hours of learning subsequently.

Existing Jobcentre Plus employees would again initially complete priority learning to enable them to move into an adviser role but the hours of training on priority products would be reduced dependant upon their existing skills and knowledge. Similarly, the remaining learning products are completed within a timeframe determined by local managers.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* couples with a dependant child were in receipt of (i) income-based and (ii) contribution-based jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 10 years. [290848]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: Information is not available for the requested breakdown.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents under the age of 18 were in receipt of income-based jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 10 years. [290863]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The information is not available in the format requested. However, almost all lone parents under the age of 18 on benefits claim income support rather than jobseeker's allowance as they are not required to be available for work.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 8 June 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms C Sudbury. [290235]

Jim Knight: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 4 August 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 17 June 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. J Hopkinson. [290238]

Jim Knight: A reply was sent to my right hon. Friend on 11 August 2009.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she plans to reply to the letter of 28 July 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent. [291089]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 27 August 2009.

National Insurance Contributions: Young People

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people aged under 25 years old who have not paid sufficient national insurance contributions to obtain full benefits; and if she will make a statement. [289765]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

New Deal Schemes: Contracts

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which sub-contractors have won contracts for phase one of the Flexible New Deal; how many such sub-contractors are third sector organisations; and if she will make a statement. [290900]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: A total of 14 prime contractors were awarded the FND Phase 1 contracts. Additionally about 150 organisations will become sub-contractors for FND1 and we expect of these approximately 40 percent of the total to be third sector organisations. These have not yet been finalised and numbers may be subject to change between now and when the contract go live, when DWP will have full visibility of the sub-contractors.

New Deal Schemes: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Hemel Hempstead constituency have received assistance through New Deal schemes in each year since 1997. [289437]

Jim Knight: The information requested is as follows.

Number of people who have entered into the New Deal in Hemel Hempstead constituency.

	Number of starters
1998	120
1999	200
2000	180
2001	180
2002	240
2003	270
2004	420
2005	390
2006	480
2007	580
2008	480
2009	110
Total	3,650

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.
3. Westminster parliamentary constituency (post May 2005) is allocated using the ONS Postcode Directory and the customer's postcode.
4. Latest data for the calendar year of starting New Deal is to February 2009.
5. The New Deal for Young People pilots began in January 1998 and full national roll-out occurred in April 1998
6. The New Deal for 25 plus programme was introduced in July 1998
7. The New Deal for Lone Parents was introduced in October 1998
8. The New Deal for Disabled People was introduced in July 2001
9. Data on New Deal 50 plus are available from January 2004 (programme was introduced in April 2000)
10. Data for New Deal for Partners are available from April 2004 (programme started in May 1999)

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Nuclear Installations Inspectorate: Manpower

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the effect of staffing levels in the *(a)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and *(b)* the HSE Nuclear Directorate on (i) safety at the UK's nuclear sites and (ii) the rate of progress of the generic design assessment. [289870]

Jonathan Shaw: Primary responsibility for safety at the UK's nuclear sites rests with the operators of those sites. The role of HSE's Nuclear Directorate, which includes the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, is to provide regulatory oversight and assurance that they discharge that responsibility. I am advised by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations that he has the resources available to discharge that role.

As a result of successive recruitment exercises, resources in the Directorate for generic design assessment should reach planned levels by December this year. The Health and Safety Executive is confident, subject to the provision of the necessary documentation from the industry, that it will meet the published timetable for completing a meaningful assessment of the generic design proposals by June 2011.

The Government are determined to ensure that nuclear regulation is properly and sustainably resourced to meet the challenges of the future. It has published proposals to restructure the Nuclear Directorate to that end, which can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/hse_restruct/hse_restruct.aspx

Nuclear Power: Safety

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what budget her Department has set for the *(a)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, *(b)* Office for Civil Nuclear Security and *(c)* HSE Nuclear Directorate for each of the next five financial years. [290372]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested in relation to 2009-10 and 2010-11 is provided in the following table.

Gross Expenditure budget of the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Nuclear Directorate (ND), comprising the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS), for this and the next financial year.

			£000
Financial year	*(a) NII*	*(b) OCNS*	*(c) ND*
2009-10	35,666	3,334	39,000
2010-11	37,948	3,547	41,495

Notes:

1. HSE has allocated a budget to ND for 2009-10 and an indicative budget for 2010-11 as shown in the table. The figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

2. HSE has not yet set budgets for 2011-12 and beyond as this year is outside of the current Spending Review settlement.

Pension Credit: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of people entitled to a pension credit who have not claimed it in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each of the last three years; [291446]

(2) how many people in Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency *(a)* are entitled to and *(b)* receive pension credit. [291567]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of eligibility and therefore those who are entitled to pension credit but have not claimed it are not available below the level of Great Britain.

The latest estimates of the take-up rates and the number of those entitled to but not receiving pension credit are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2007-08".

As at February 2009 there were 7,680 households in receipt of pension credit in the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency.

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest ten.

2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pension Credit: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Hemel Hempstead constituency were in receipt of pension credit in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [289436]

Angela Eagle: The number of household recipients of pension credit in the Hemel Hempstead constituency is shown in the following table.

Households in Hemel Hempstead constituency in receipt of pension credit

2008	*Number*
February	3,460
May	3,430
August	3,450
November	3,430

Notes:

1. The number of households in receipt of pension credit are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Pensions Service: Manpower

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of Pensions Service staff left the service in the last *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [289764]

Angela Eagle: The information available is in the following table:

	Leavers	
	November 2008 to April 2009 (six months)	*July 2008 to April 2009 (10 months)*
Former TPS leavers	778.24	1,320.4
As a percentage of all staff	8	13

Note:

The Pension Service (TPS) and Disability and Carers Service (DCS) merged to form Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) in April 2008. The resource management staffing records remained as separate entities until April 2009—therefore data for the former TPS are not available beyond that date.

Source:

RM Dataview.

Retirement

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Coventry were obliged to retire at the age of 65 years in 2008-09. [291516]

Angela Eagle: This information is not available.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether her Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288947]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its Final Report, which can be found here:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A Steering Group has been established under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Caiman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Social Fund

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* York, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(d)* England have received a (i) grant and (ii) loan from the Social Fund in each year since the establishment of that Fund. [290652]

Helen Goodman *(holding answer 9 September 2009):* The available information is shown in the following table.

	Yorkshire and the Humber	*England*
Community care grant number of initial awards		
1997-98	n/a	180,500
1998-99	n/a	173,300
1999-2000	n/a	168,500
2000-01	n/a	173,500
2001-02	n/a	179,700
2002-03	n/a	190,300
2003-04	n/a	198,200
2004-05	22,800	200,700
2005-06	23,500	215,800
2006-07	22,700	215,900
2007-08	22,300	196,800
2008-09	23,400	200,000
Loan (budgeting and crisis) number of initial awards		
1997-98	n/a	1,354,000
1998-99	n/a	1,397,000
1999-2000	n/a	n/a
2000-01	n/a	1,596,100
2001-02	n/a	1,708,400
2002-03	n/a	1,781,800
2003-04	n/a	1,777,200
2004-05	194,400	1,702,000
2005-06	197,200	1,720,600
2006-07	210,700	1,858,900
2007-08	214,400	2,040,400
2008-09	237,000	2,479,300

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The information provided is Management Information; our preference is to answer all Parliamentary Questions using Official/National Statistics but in this case we only have Management Information available. It is not quality assured to the same extent as Official/National Statistics and there are some issues with the data, for example, it does not include applications which were processed clerically and have not yet been entered on to the Social Fund Computer System.
3. Awards shown are initial awards and do not include awards made on review.
4. Information cannot be supplied for York and North Yorkshire as the smallest geographical area we can provide figures for is Social Fund Budget Area.
5. Figures are for initial awards made, not the number of people who received an initial award. (Some people received more than one initial award.).

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Social Security Benefits

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in benefit payments to residents of *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England in (i) 1980, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) 2008. [289406]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of benefit claimants whose benefit entitlement was incorrectly assessed in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [289766]

Helen Goodman: The Department's measurement system for fraud and error does not estimate the number or proportion of cases of fraud or error over a given period.

It does, however, provide estimates of the average proportion and number of claims that are fraudulent or in error at any one time during a year for income support, jobseeker's allowance and pension credit. Estimates are also produced for housing benefit, but only on the proportion of claims that are fraudulent or in error at any one time during a year.

The available information is provided in the following tables.

Estimates of average proportion and number of incorrect cases in Income Support at any one time

	Average number incorrect (thousand)	*Average proportion incorrect (percentage)*
2005-06	380	18.2
2006-07	330	16
2007-08	298	14.7

Notes:

The average number incorrect has been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:

Supplementary tables to National Statistics publication series "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System"

Estimates of average proportion and number of incorrect cases in Jobseeker's Allowance at any one time

	Average number incorrect (thousand)	*Average proportion incorrect (percentage)*
2005-06	61	7.8
2006-07	68	8.2
2007-08	46	6.3

Notes:

The average number incorrect has been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:

Supplementary tables to National Statistics publication series "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System"

Estimates of average proportion and number of incorrect cases in Pension Credit at any one time

	Average number incorrect (thousand)	*Average proportion incorrect (percentage)*
2005-06	984	35.6
2006-07	945	34.8
2007-08	1,001	36.8

Notes:

The average number incorrect has been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:

Supplementary tables to National Statistics publication series "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System"

Estimate: of average proportion of incorrect cases in Housing Benefit any one time

	Average proportion incorrect (percentage)
2005-06	18.7
2006-07	14.4
2007-08	13.2

Source:
Supplementary tables to National Statistics publication series "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System"

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what new procedures her Department plans to introduce to detect and prosecute those abusing the benefits system. [291277]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The Department is always open to adopting new innovations to improve the detection and prosecution of benefit thieves. For example, we are currently piloting the use of Voice Risk Analysis, investigating the effectiveness of new data analysis techniques and working with new partners, including the National Fraud Authority.

Social Security Benefits: Pay Methods

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will assess the effect on *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* persons receiving benefits of proposals to phase out cheques as methods of payment. [291743]

Helen Goodman: Introducing a more modern, efficient and reliable system to replace cheques will enable us to provide a better service to our customers. Suppliers will be expected to put in place suitable arrangements to meet the needs of all customers who cannot open or operate an account.

Social Security Benefits: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's most recent estimate is of the average cost per person per month of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* income support and *(c)* housing benefit. [290481]

Jim Knight: The answer is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the tables.

	February 2009 (£)
Income support non-MIG claimants average weekly amount in payment	80.65
Jobseekers allowance claimants average weekly amount in payment	55.69

Note:
Average amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

	May 2009 (£)
Housing benefit average weekly amount in payment	81.03

Notes:
1. Aver-ge amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
2. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

State Retirement Pensions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claiming the state pension had their pensions payments temporarily suspended to perform system checks in each month of 2009; and how many days on average such checks lasted. [291156]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The information requested is not available. This is because payments of state pension are not temporarily suspended to perform any system checks.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons individuals claiming the state pension may have their pension payments suspended. [291763]

Angela Eagle: Payment of state pension would be suspended until the issue in question is resolved. The Secretary of State has the discretion to suspend state pension in whole or in part and would normally do so until any issue which may lead to a doubt about ongoing entitlement had been resolved.

State pension may be suspended due to the following reasons:

When official DWP correspondence, which has been sent to the customer, is returned by Royal Mail stating 'not known at this address'. Upon receipt of undelivered correspondence, we would suspend payment of benefit and take action to trace an up to date address for the customer. Payment would only be reinstated when a current address is obtained from the customer or their representative.

When benefit payments are returned by a bank or building society noted 'account closed reason unknown'. Inquiries would need to be made to establish why the payment has not been made to the nominated account and this would prompt suspension of future payments until the reason is known.

Where the Department has been informed that a customer receiving Widows Benefit has remarried or where investigations show that a widow is living together as husband and wife with a new partner.

When a customer is remanded in custody.

When inquiries or allegations are made regarding a misappropriation of funds by the customer's representative or power of attorney. This would be a request by either the Social Services or via third party disclosure and would result in suspension of benefit.

When the Department has been notified of the customer's death but the exact date is currently not known. Payment would be suspended until the issues in question are resolved.

State Retirement Pensions: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency were in receipt of a state pension in each of the last three years. [291554]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the following table.

Number of recipients of state pension in Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency

	Number
2007	12,360
2008	12,200

Number of recipients of state pension in Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency

	Number
2009	12,210

Notes:

1. Figures are as at February for the years shown.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has been applied.
3. Constituency is for the Westminster parliament.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate—Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

State Retirement Pensions: Perth

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed the state pension in Perth and North Perthshire constituency in each of the last three years. [289516]

Angela Eagle: Information on the number of people who have claimed the State Pension is not available. Information on the total State Pension caseload for the Perth and North Perthshire constituency is in the following table.

	Caseload
2006	20,330
2007	20,730
2008	21,050

Notes:

1. Figures are as at November for the years shown.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has been applied.
3. Caseload refers to successful claims.
4. Constituencies are for the Westminster parliament.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate—Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate her Department has made of the number of its new customers who will be assessed using the work capability assessment; and how many and what proportion of these customers are expected to flow onto *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* employment and support allowance (ESA) work related activity group and *(c)* ESA support group in each month to March 2012. [288520]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Information on the Work Capability Assessment for Employment and Support Allowance is due for publication on 13 October.

Winter Fuel Payments

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions her Department has had with the Department of Energy and Climate Change on the winter fuel payment scheme. [289930]

Angela Eagle: We regularly review our policies with other Government Departments which have an interest. However, there have been no recent discussions with the Department of Energy and Climate Change regarding winter fuel payment policy.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for winter fuel payments from residents of *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England were subject to inaccurate data handling by the Pension Service resulting in an extension of prioritising time in the winter of 2007-08. [292106]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are in place to ensure that inaccuracies in data held by the Pension Service do not result in the late issue of winter fuel payments. [292107]

Angela Eagle: The measures for existing DWP customers are that winter fuel payments are generated using existing data from the payment system. For customers who are not in receipt of another DWP benefit, a properly completed claim form must be received by Thursday of the qualifying week (third week of September), in order to guarantee payment before Christmas.

If more information is required from the customer they may not receive their payment before Christmas. However, as long as a properly completed claim is received by 30 March, payments can still be issued up to mid-June.

During 2008-09 the Pension, Disability and Carers Service delivered automatic winter fuel payments to over 99.9 per cent. of eligible customers by the end of December, and as a result over 12.5 million customers received their payment before Christmas 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions he visited Afghanistan on official business in the last 12 months. [290420]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have visited Afghanistan twice on official business in the last 12 months.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 508-09W, on Afghanistan: overseas aid, when he expects the 48 kilometre road through the Babaji area to be completed; and when he expects work on the hydro-power plant in Geresk to be completed. [289655]

Mr. Michael Foster: The two projects are currently early in the design stage. The implementation of the projects will be co-funded with other donors and is due to be completed by 2013 at the earliest given their scale.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 675W, on Afghanistan: theme parks, what his estimate is of the number of people who have used the Park for Women in Lashkar each week since its establishment; and what recent assessment he has made of the condition of the park. [289628]

Mr. Michael Foster: Although there are no accurate figures for park usage, we have reports that the Bolan Park is busy most evenings, and on Fridays usually reaches full capacity.

Responsibility for park maintenance was transferred to the Afghan Government in 2008. While we monitor the overall impact of our stabilisation and development projects, we do not routinely check such details as the condition of and use of the park, which is now a matter for the Afghan Government.

Budget April 2009

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many copies of the Budget 2009 Report his Department ordered; and what the cost of that order was. [290267]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department's financial reporting system holds no record of ordering any copies of the Budget 2009 report.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising by publication in the latest year for which figures are available. [289476]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following table sets out the Department for International Development's newspaper advertising costs during the financial year 2008-09, and from April 2009 to date, the majority of which is in recruitment advertising.

Publication	*Cost (£)*
April 2008 to March 2009	
Glasgow Herald	20,133
Scotsman	6,273
Guardian	37,370
Daily Times	540
Evening Standard	5,317
Total	69,633
April 2009 to date	
Glasgow Herald	7,273
Scotsman	1,829
Guardian	1,707
Total	10,809

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on which initiatives of his Department and its agencies expenditure on advertising has been incurred in each of the last five years; how much was spent on each such initiative; and which such initiatives were advertised through the Central Office of Information. [290150]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the last five years the Department for International Development (DFID) has spent the following on advertising and publicity. 98 per cent. of this expenditure has been for procurement and recruitment reasons.

	Total amount (£)	*Amount spent via COI*
2004	703,719	0
2005	423,952	0
2006	699,898	0
2007	310,191	75,990
2008	338,887	338,887

DFID has advertised other initiatives that do not fall into the categories above over the last five years, but information on them is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

DFID has one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission (CSC) which undertakes publicity and advertising to promote scholarship opportunities and the Commission's Professional Fellowship Programme. The breakdown of spend over the last five years is shown as follows:

	Total amount	*Amount spent via COI*
2004-05	24,366	0
2005-06	19,562	0
2006-07	20,342	0
2007-08	19,346	0
2008-09	12,426	0

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290553]

Mr. Michael Foster: In each of the last five financial years the number of Home Civil Service staff dismissed was less than five. Providing the specific numbers could potentially identify individuals concerned and so breach confidentiality.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many laptop computers have been issued to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following the (A) loss or (B) theft of a previous device. [290549]

Mr. Michael Foster: The numbers of laptops issued to Department for International Development (DFID) staff in each of the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*Laptops issued*	*Issued to existing staff after loss*	*Issued to existing staff after theft*
2004-05	1,272	0	6
2005-06	524	0	6
2006-07	259	0	3
2007-08	1,391	0	8
2008-09	241	3	0

The increased number in 2007-08 corresponded with a laptop refresh project. DFID does not differentiate between new and existing staff when issuing laptops.

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290555]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) operates a Flexible Working Hours Scheme (FWHS). This allows employees to work additional hours and convert them into leave, up to a maximum of three days in every four week period.

It is a matter for each member of staff to apply to join the FWHS, approval being granted through line management. It is not possible to supply details on staff participation as records are not kept centrally.

The FWHS has been in operation for a number of years, and the only change made to the scheme in the last five years has been to increase the amount of additional hours employees are allowed to convert into leave for every four week period, from two days to three days.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290550]

Mr. Michael Foster: The following IT systems have been in development for use within the Department for International Development since July 2004:

The Quest project introduced an Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM) system, upgraded the Email system and Desktop software, and developed a Collaborative Working system. The project was completed in March 2006 at a cost of £11.68 million.

The ARIES Enterprise Resource Planning system was developed to support DFID's project management, finance, procurement and reporting needs. The contract cost was £17.6 million, and the system has been operational since November 2007.

The HR Transformation project was primarily a business change project but included a number of smaller IT components to help manage staff administration, including the Performance Management System and 360 Feedback System. The cost of the HR Transformation project was £6.0 million.

The Knowledge and Information Management Programme began in 2008 and contains a number of IT projects, including the Chapter system to manage ministerial and parliamentary correspondence and an upgrade to the Quest EDRM system. The programme is on track to complete in March 2011. The current cost estimate is £6.8 million.

All the systems mentioned have been implemented and are in use. No major IT systems have been terminated either prior to implementation or before their planned lifespan after implementation.

One IT project run by DFID Pakistan was cancelled in September 2008. The project had spent £7,000 at the point of cancellation.

Departmental Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of staff of his Department are *(a)* male and *(b)* female. [290407]

Mr. Michael Foster: Civil service statistics are collected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey. The latest published statistics are for 31 March 2008 available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cs0109.pdf

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each civil service pay band. [290552]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of the average length of service of Home Civil Service (HCS) staff in the Department for International Development (DFID), is shown in the following table:

Pay band	*Average length of service (approximate)*
SCS	13.8 years = 13 years 10 months
A1—equivalent to G6	11.3 years = 11 years 4 months
A2—equivalent to G7	8.9 years = 8 years 11 months
A2(L)—equivalent to SEO	17.4 years = 17 years 5 months
B1(D)—Fast Stream	2.5 years = 2 years 6 months
B1—equivalent to HEO	16.3 years = 16 years 4 months
B2—equivalent to EO	13.9 years = 14 years
C1—equivalent to AO	14.3 years = 14 years 4 months
C2—equivalent to AA	15.2 years = 15 years 3 months
Overall	12.5 years =12 years 6 months

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff there were in his Department *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [292066]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of Home Civil Service (HCS) staffing numbers within the Department for International Development (DFID) as at *(a)* 1997, and *(b)* end of September 2009 (the latest figures available) are shown in the following table.

Numbers of our staff appointed in country (SAIC) are shown separately. These are staff engaged locally overseas, on local terms and conditions, to support our work in developing countries.

	Home Civil Service (HCS) staff	*Staff Appointed in Country (SAIC)*	*Total*
1997	1,714	330	2,044
2009	1,630	757	2,387

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 346W, on departmental marketing, how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [290213]

Mr. Michael Foster: In 2008-09 no one person had sole responsibility for branding. All employees who work on public-facing communications are responsible for representing the activity of the Department for International Development clearly and appropriately in the UK and overseas, as outlined in our Communications Strategy:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/commsstrategy.pdf

As such it is not possible to disaggregate figures for employment costs on this activity from overall budgets without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291609]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does hold the requested information centrally and cannot provide it without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many properties owned by his Department were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the liability in respect of each was in each such year. [290556]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has only one freehold property in the United Kingdom, Abercrombie House office in East Kilbride.

The business rates bill for the last five years for this office was as follows:

	£
2004-05	432,602
2005-06	440,377
2006-07	428,538
2007-08	416,028
2008-09	432,894

DFID has had no liability for empty property rates over this period.

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the average duration of such leave has been. [290554]

Mr. Michael Foster: The number of home civil servants who took paternity leave in the last five years is as follows:

	Number
2004	8
2005	10
2006	21
2007	24
2008	20

The majority of staff took their full entitlement of 10 days. There is no centrally held record for staff appointed in country.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289737]

Mr. Michael Foster: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has assigned me with the responsibility for overseeing delivery of value for money within the Department.

The Department is implementing a range of reforms to ensure it achieves the maximum development impact for each pound spent. Teams are established as required to deliver these reforms.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290508]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) keeps volunteered diversity recruitment data on age, disability, ethnicity and gender.

DFID's Annual Diversity Report and Data Analysis can be found at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/diversity/diversity-report-2008-09.pdf

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289669]

Mr. Michael Foster: The proportion of waste from the Department of International Development's UK offices which was recycled in 2008-09 was 76.8 per cent.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* publish on his Department's website a copy of each (i) project document, (ii) logframe and (iii) evaluation report relating to each project listed on his Department's website's project information database. [292156]

Mr. Michael Foster: Following the publication of summary project information on our website in September, we are working on arrangements and a timetable for publishing further details of our projects. In doing so, we need to balance our commitment to transparency with the need to protect sensitive information, and the cost and practicality of publishing information in a usable format.

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many sick days were taken by staff of his Department in the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse of such absences was. [290551]

Mr. Michael Foster: In 2008, there were 11,487 days lost to sickness absence in the Department for International Development (DFID).

Prior to 2008, the Cabinet Office published previous annual sickness absence reports for the Civil Service (from 2003-2007). These are available online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/sickness.aspx

Costs of sickness absence are not held centrally and without incurring disproportionate cost it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the cost of sick absence over the last five years.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289603]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate costs, to provide details on how external training courses were attended by staff in the Department for International Development (DFID) and what the cost was of each course.

Sub-departments and overseas offices within DFID are responsible for arranging and financing staff training. Information on the amount spent on training courses is not held centrally.

Developing Countries: Disabled

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the effects of its spending on education in developing countries on the education of disabled children in those countries. [289251]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to the integration of disability policy and practice as set out in DFID's policy "Reducing Poverty by Tackling Social Exclusion" (2005). The practice paper, "Working on Disability in Country Programmes" (2007), sets out DFID's approach and commitments on disability which is main-streamed across all sectors, including education. These are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

DFID's country-led approach helps support partner countries' plans, policies and programmes to ensure that children, including those with disabilities, benefit from quality education. This holistic approach includes working with partners to ensure that access to education by children with special needs is addressed.

The UK is spending £8.5 billion over the period 2006-07 to 2015-16 in support of education in developing countries. DFID's new White Paper "Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future" announced that a new Education Strategy will be launched. A public consultation process will be held up to end October, which will enable us to review how we support social inclusion issues and receive views from interested parties.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account his Department takes of the twin-track approach to disability set out in his Department's paper, "Disability, poverty and development", in the development of its work on education and disability. [289255]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is implementing the "twin-track" approach on its work on education and disability in the following ways:

The "How to note" on Working on Disability in Country Programmes is being disseminated to DFID programmes and to Civil Society partners. The note is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/Disguide DFID.pdf

DFID requires all 22 priority countries to carry out a Country Governance Analysis (CGA) as part of the planning and design of new country strategies. This analysis includes an assessment of gender inequalities and of excluded groups, their interests and needs. To date, partner governments in Uganda and Ethiopia have explicitly targeted disabled children in their national strategies for education.

DFID supports civil society in shaping the design of national education systems and services, so that the interests of disabled people and other excluded groups are reflected in national planning processes. DFID also supports capacity building for disabled people's organisations, so that they can engage with government and others on the design of essential service provision.

DFID supports the global Disability Rights Fund (with a current contribution of £868,000 over 18 months) which provides grants to work with and help empower disabled people.

Starting in 2009-10, DFID will include disabled people when designing evaluation systems and other tools for building the evidence of good practice in reducing poverty, including through education.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's expenditure on education was incurred in relation to *(a)* projects directly targeting disabled children and *(b)* broader projects on education with disability mainstreamed in (i) Nigeria, (ii) Tanzania, (iii) India and (iv) Pakistan in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289258]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK is spending £8.5 billion over the period 2006-07 to 2015-16 in support of education in developing countries. As the bulk of our support and engagement is provided through direct budget support and sector wide approaches, we are unable to put a specific global figure on the amount of money spent directly on disabled children. However, we encourage partner governments to ensure that their monitoring mechanisms can track the effects of national education sector spending on the most vulnerable children, including disabled children.

The estimated spend on projects where disability is either directly targeted or mainstreamed in the four countries listed is:

India—The DFID supported Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), National Education for All Programme, has helped reach over 1 million children with special needs since 2005-06. The programme has spent over £78 million of which it is estimated approximately £2.3 million supported special needs children.

Nigeria—DFID provides support to a set of State level sector programmes including education sector support through the Education Sector Support Programme. DFID Nigeria is increasing its support from £100 million in 2008-09 to £140 million in 2010-11. The increased allocation is being used to expand support to selected partner states for health and education over the next three years.

Pakistan—We do not have any ongoing or pipeline programmes that specifically target the disabled. Our support is mainly provided through sector budgets in support of provincial plans, within which issues relating to provision for disabled children is made.

Tanzania—DFID's support in Tanzania is aligned with the Government of Tanzania National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty. In 2007-08 DFID provided £105 million as budget support of which over £26 million went to the education sector. Of this, we estimate that more than £66,000 went on school places for disabled children.

Developing Countries: Economic Situation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effects of reductions in levels of global trade on the gross domestic product of *(a)* small vulnerable economies, *(b)* least developed countries and *(c)* small island states. [289859]

Mr. Thomas: Since the onset of the global financial crisis, the Department for International Development (DFID) has been closely tracking its impact on developing countries. The crisis and the subsequent reductions in global trade have had a significant effect on developing countries and a reduction in projected growth rates is predicted across the board. Our initial assessments have indicated that commodity-exporting countries with non-diversified economies have seen the greatest impact.

A dedicated team has been set up to co-ordinate and initiate work across the Department to assess trade-related and other impacts of the global slowdown on low-income countries. More broadly DFID is in close contact with colleagues across Whitehall and overseas, in other Governments, the international financial institutions, and research institutions to analyse impacts of the crisis and plan further effective responses. DFID has commissioned several pieces of research examining trade-related impacts which have been made publicly available:

"The implication of the global financial crisis for developing countries' export volumes and values"

http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/details.asp?id=3410&title= global-financial-crisis-developing-countries-export-volumes-trade

"Individual Country Reports of 10 selected Low Income Countries"

http://www.odi.org.uk/projects/details.asp?id=1041&title= global-financial-crisis-developing-countries

"Assessing the Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on World Prices and Trade in Developing Countries"

http://www.ids.ac.uk/index.cfm?objectid=C3AB945D-9C12-586B-549FE1FC1F72E600

"Are Exporters in Africa Facing Reduced Availability of Trade Finance?"

http://www.ids.ac.uk/index.cfm?objectid=C369D2D2-AEE3-EB77-A7847EA6F6FBF447

Developing Countries: Females

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent promoting women's rights in developing countries in each of the last 12 months. [290422]

Mr. Michael Foster: Promoting gender equality and women's rights is a key component of the UK Government's international development policy. It is not therefore possible to disaggregate a precise figure for total expenditure on promoting women's rights.

Developing Countries: Taxation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he last discussed the commitment made at the G20 London Summit to develop proposals by end 2009 to make it easier for developing countries to secure the benefits of a new co-operative tax environment with the Chancellor of the Exchequer; what progress has been made in producing such proposals; and if he will make a statement [291400]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State met the Chancellor of the Exchequer in early September as part of ongoing preparations for the autumn G20 meetings to discuss progress on G20 commitments and priorities for the next leaders' meeting.

Since the London Summit positive progress has been made to deliver on the commitment to create a new co-operative tax environment for developing countries. The 1-2 September meeting of the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes included developing country issues. Participants agreed that developing countries will have access to membership of the Global Forum, and participate on an equal footing with OECD members. They also noted progress on projects to develop a multilateral mechanism for tax information exchange and agreed to submit a report about how this would work to the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in November. The Communiqué from the September G20 Finance Ministers meeting reaffirmed support for this commitment. I also refer the hon. Member to the statement made on this matter by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 135WS.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage the use of Fairtrade schemes *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad. [292021]

Mr. Thomas: In the UK, we have provided funding to Fairtrade Foundation UK, for projects ranging from development and expansion of Fairtrade certification and markets, to awareness-raising campaigns.

Internationally, we are currently delivering on a £1.2 million commitment to Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO)—the apex organisation of global Fairtrade—for its work to broaden and deepen Fairtrade's impact.

On 10 October we announced an additional commitment to FLO of £12 million, over four years. This funding will support their work, together with the Fairtrade Foundation UK and other national labelling organisations, to double the number of producers selling on Fairtrade terms, and triple global retail sales to some £9 billion per annum by 2013.

India and China: Overseas Aid

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent in *(a)* India and *(b)* China in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [292506]

Mr. Michael Foster: Information on the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid to all developing countries in 2008-09 was published in its Annual Report and Accounts, a copy of which is available in the Library. In 2008-09 total DFID bilateral aid to India was £297 million; total DFID bilateral aid to China was £40 million.

International Women's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department plans to spend on promoting International Women's Day 2010. [290377]

Mr. Michael Foster: We do not, at this stage, have firm plans on how we will mark International Women's Day in March 2010. Our approach is likely to be similar to that taken this year, which was outlined in the answer which I gave to the hon. Member on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 222W.

Kenya: Food Supply

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of food shortages in Kenya; and if he will make a statement. [291656]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) accepts the United Nations (UN) agencies and the Government of Kenya's recent assessment of the current food shortages in Kenya. This shows that domestic production of the staple, maize, is 30 per cent. less than normal due to the drought this year. Even with additional imports of food by the private sector, 9.9 million people face food insecurity.

DFID has already provided £7.9 million this year to support general food relief through the World Food Programme, and targeted relief for acutely malnourished children through international non-governmental agencies. On 2 October we announced an additional £5 million allocation to help those most in need. We are also pressing the Government of Kenya to do all it can to respond to the needs of its people, and in the longer term to address the root causes of Kenya's chronic food insecurity.

Malawi: Education

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of each of his Department's documents relating to the information support to education infrastructure management unit project in Malawi. [292155]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is currently providing funds to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Malawi for the running costs of their Educational Infrastructure Management Unit (EIMU). Details of all DFID's currently active projects, including this "Support to EIMU" in Malawi, are now made widely available through the Project Information database on the DFID website:

http://projects.dfid.gov.uk

Maldives: Overseas Aid

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided to the Maldives for development in each year since 1997; how much it plans to provide in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [289613]

Mr. Michael Foster: Full details of the UK development expenditure in the Maldives are contained in the Department for International Development (DFID) publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This publication is available from the Library and online at

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Relevant figures are reproduced in the following table.

DFID does not have any plans to spend directly in the Maldives in 2009-10; however some of DFID's contributions to multilateral organisations may be spent there.

UK gross public expenditure on development in the Maldives, 1997-98 to 2008-09

£000

	DFID bilateral expenditure	Other UK official sources bilateral expenditure	UK imputed multilateral shares
1997-98	292	—	—
1998-99	310	—	85
1999-2000	292	—	206
2000-01	286	—	1,011
2001-02	83	—	101
2002-03	195	—	402
2003-04	199	—	40
2004-05	808	—	451
2005-06	405	—	2,292

UK gross public expenditure on development in the Maldives, 1997-98 to 2008-09

£000

	DFID bilateral expenditure	*Other UK official sources bilateral expenditure*	*UK imputed multilateral shares*
2006-07	—	—	595
2007-08	—	44	539
2008-09	—	n/a	n/a

Overseas Aid

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals of the global economic downturn. [289858]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has been following events closely but the full economic and social impacts will not be known for some time. Therefore making an assessment of the impact of the crisis on the millennium development goals (MDGs) is extremely difficult and indicative at best. Based on revised growth forecasts, we estimate that up to 90 million more people will be living in extreme poverty by 2010 as a result of the crisis than previously anticipated. This is expected to delay the achievement of MDG1—eradicate extreme poverty and hunger—by up to three years. Other goals, such as increased educational enrolment and reduced child mortality, are also likely to be affected due to falling household incomes, but the severity of such effects depend on government policy in the particular developing country.

The recent White Paper "Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future" emphasises DFID's commitment to supporting poor people through the global economic crisis. It is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Overseas Aid: Climate Change

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which countries his Department has provided aid for the purposes of *(a)* adapting to climate change and *(b)* mitigating the effects of climate change. [292451]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has programmes tackling climate change in many of the countries in which we work, but we do not categorise aid according to adaptation or mitigation activities.

DFID records whether a programme is contributing to the Departmental Strategic Objective 2 'to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and ensure environmental sustainability' and also if the programme is targeting climate change. DFID currently has over 40 live programmes tackling climate change in many countries including India, Bangladesh, Ghana, Nepal and Zambia.

Overseas Aid: Forests

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided for community-based forestry projects that support the land rights of forest communities in the last 12 months. [292494]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the last 12 months the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided funding for the following four initiatives that support the land rights of forest communities: two projects that support the land rights of forest communities in the Congo Basin; the Livelihoods and Forestry Programme (LFP) of Nepal; and a programme of work by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI). The total expenditure on these initiatives over the last 12 months is £4,462,000.

Overseas Aid: Human Rights

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account his Department takes of a country's human rights record when granting international aid. [292309]

Mr. Michael Foster: Human rights principles underpin the UK Government's aid to developing countries. The policy of the Department for International Development (DFID) is to consider a country's human rights record when deciding whether to provide bi-lateral aid. DFID assesses a country's human rights record in its three yearly 'Country Governance Analysis'. This provides an analysis of the human rights situation in each country and is used in developing the Country Plan and the Development Partnership Agreement.

This approach is reinforced by the Conditionality Policy, which bases UK aid partnerships on shared commitments to respect human rights, to poverty reduction and to good financial management. Where a country government do not share these commitments, UK aid can still be provided to poor people through other routes such as multi-lateral agencies and civil society. Where a partner government have breached their commitment to human rights, UK aid to the government may be suspended, as it was in Kenya and Pakistan in 2007-08.

Somaliland: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on humanitarian projects in Somaliland in the last 12 months. [290489]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not funded any humanitarian projects in Somaliland in the last 12 months. During this period we have committed approximately £25 million to UN agencies, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for their humanitarian work in South-Central Somalia, reflecting the greater need there. DFID has an active development programme in Somaliland, on which almost £6 million was spent in 2008-09.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian effects of the conflict in Sri Lanka. [291527]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) declared victory over the LITE in May 2009. Approximately 270,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) remain in camps in the north and east of the country. Conditions in the camps are basic but have improved as the needs for shelter, food, water and medicine are gradually being met. We remain concerned about high malnutrition levels among sections of the IDP population, the lack of freedom of movement and the restrictions put on activities such as registration of the population and the reunification of families. Recent flooding in the camps following heavy rain highlights the importance of safely returning as many people as possible to their homes before the monsoon season. The Department for International Development (DFID), together with the international community, is participating in contingency planning to mitigate against its effect on the camps.

DFID has allocated £3 million to help the returns process and has recently agreed a grant of £0.5 million to Mine Action Group (MAG) to contribute towards de-mining activities in the Vanni.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to provide humanitarian assistance to those held in internment camps in Sri Lanka. [291525]

Mr. Michael Foster: The conventional conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and LTTE ended in May 2009. Approximately 270,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) continue to remain in camps in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Since September 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £12.5 million of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka. This has supported impartial organisations such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to undertake both child protection and vaccination campaigns in the IDP camps, as well as the International Office of Migration (IOM) to build, equip and supply health clinics in the camps. We are pressing for the IDPs to be treated in accordance with accepted international standards and guidelines and for the safe return of the IDPs from the camps to their homes as soon as possible.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to reply to question 288181, on CDC, tabled on 15 July 2009. [290224]

Mr. Michael Foster: A response to question 288181 was provided on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1243W.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much development aid has been provided by his Department to each programme in Zimbabwe in each of the last three years. [292171]

Mr. Thomas: Summary information on the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid to Zimbabwe in each of the last three years was published in annex A of DFID's 2008-09 annual report and resource accounts in July, a copy of which is available in the Library. Information on all individual DFID-funded projects is available via the project information database on our website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of amending the Penalty Notice for Disorder operational guidance issued to police to ensure that such notices are only issued in police stations; and if he will make a statement. [291982]

Mr. Straw: There are significant advantages to issue on the street in appropriate circumstances: officers do not need to return to the police station in order to process the matter and they are able to return to patrol much more quickly, resulting in efficiency savings and a better service to the public. In 2007, 115,939 PNDs were issued in a police station and 91,605 on the street.

The operational guidance to the police sets out the criteria which should be considered by officers in deciding where to issue a PND. For example, a ticket must not be issued to a suspect who is drunk, which means that issue will take place in a police station once the individual has sobered up.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released early into bail hostels since 1997; and how many such prisoners have subsequently absconded from bail hostels. [290105]

Mr. Straw: For the purposes of this answer, we are interpreting "released early" as "released from prison on licence in accordance with the law".

Data about offenders released into approved premises (formerly known as bail/probation hostels) have been collected centrally only since April 2004, from information supplied by individual approved premises. We estimate that 25,935 offenders released on licence were admitted into APs between April 2004 and March 2009.

Figures about residents who have absconded from an approved premises and are still at large on the final day of each month have been collected only since April 2006, with additional figures collected since April 2008 for those residents who have absconded and are known to have been recalled to prison during the month. Neither of these figures is broken down by resident type, and so will include residents who are on bail or serving a community sentence. In addition, our figures do not separately record absconded residents who are arrested at a later date, so there may be some double counting.

Between April 2006 and March 2009, a total of 1,251 residents absconded and were believed still to be at large at the end of the month in question. In addition, between April 2008 and March 2009 1,023 residents absconded and were recalled to prison.

Belmarsh Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison staff have been suspended from HM Prison Belmarsh in each of the last 60 days; for what reason each member of staff was suspended; and how many prison staff are working at the prison. [292396]

Maria Eagle: Six members of staff have been suspended at HMP Belmarsh in the last 60 days while some aspect of their conduct is under investigation. These inveitigations are still ongoing and as such it would not be appropriate to release any other information that might serve to identify individual members of staff. The National Offender Management Service has a responsibility to ensure that the individuals concerned are treated fairly and reasonably, and that their cases are not subject to discussion and formulation of views in advance of full consideration of the evidence. As of 7 October 2009 there were 940 staff working at HMP Belmarsh.

British Constitution: Ministerial Statements

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 795-99, on constitutional renewal, when the Government will set out its proposals for taking forward the debate on electoral reform. [288683]

Mr. Wills: On 29 September, the Prime Minister made a commitment to hold a referendum early in the next Parliament on changing the current voting system for the House of Commons to the Alternative Vote system.

Children: Remand in Custody

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children commenced a period of definition on the juvenile secure estate *(a)* on remand and *(b)* after sentencing for (i) less than one month, (ii) less than six months, (iii) less than one year, (iv) less than three years and (v) more than three years in each of the last five years. [287687]

Maria Eagle: The statistics collected by the Youth Justice Board record the number of occasions on which young people have entered custody, rather than the number of individual young people who have begun a period in custody. (These figures are different because a young person may experience more than one period in custody.) These figures, in relation to the period and categories for which information has been requested, are set out in the following table.

The figures have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Time spent in custody in the secure estate for children and young people	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Remanded young people under 18					
Up to 1 month	4,683	4,451	4,503	4,147	3,780
1 month up to 6 months	859	954	913	894	985
6 months up to 12 months	119	205	168	235	194
12 months up to 3 years	10	27	17	25	4
More than 3 years	0	0	0	0	0
Sentenced young people under 18					
Up to one month	759	734	808	798	1,013
One month up to six months	3,743	4,046	3,670	3,940	3,924
Six months up to twelve months	1,208	1,145	1,220	1,191	1,046
Twelve months up to three years	353	351	372	327	342
More than three years	7	1	3	4	6

Civil Proceedings: Fees and Charges

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce the conclusions of his review into the operation of conditional fee agreements following the end of the consultation contained in paper CP4/09, "Controlling costs in defamation proceedings". [292084]

Bridget Prentice: We are not currently undertaking a review into the operation of conditional fee agreements.

The consultation paper CP4/09 "Controlling costs in defamation proceedings" proposed a number of specific measures aimed at controlling the costs of defamation and some other publication related proceedings.

I have made a written ministerial statement today confirming that the response to that consultation paper was issued on 24 September 2009. Copies of the response paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The paper is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gsi.gov.uk

Copies have also been made available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Lord Justice Jackson has been appointed by the Master of the Rolls to undertake a review of the rules and principles governing the costs of civil litigation. He is considering the operation of conditional fee agreements as part of this review. Ministers will consider the review's recommendations when they are available.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the responses received to the consultation paper CP4/09, "Controlling costs in defamation proceedings". [292088]

Bridget Prentice: I have made a written ministerial statement today confirming that the response to the consultation paper "Controlling costs in defamation proceedings" CP4/09 was issued on 24 September 2009.

Copies of the response paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The paper is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gsi.gov.uk

Copies have also been made available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what reports he has received of the outcome of the second stage of the review by Sir Rupert Jackson of the *(a)* costs of litigation and *(b)* operation of conditional fee agreements in England and Wales; and when he expects the (i) first draft and (ii) final draft of Sir Rupert's report to be available. [292090]

Bridget Prentice: Lord Justice Jackson was appointed by the Master of the Rolls in January 2009 to lead a fundamental review of the rules and principles governing the costs of civil litigation. Ministers have received a copy of the preliminary report published on the 8 May 2009. Lord Justice Jackson has indicated that his final report will be delivered to the Master of the Rolls by the 31 December 2009 and Ministers expect to receive a copy of the report early in the New Year.

Community Orders: Publicity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the effectiveness of the high visibility payback scheme. [287968]

Mr. Straw: Ministers and senior officials hold regular reviews with departmental leads to ensure that the policy is being implemented consistently in all probation areas. Community Payback was launched in November 2005 to promote public awareness and confidence in the unpaid work community sentence. To increase visibility, distinctive clothing in the form of orange high visibility jackets has been required to be worn by offenders on most work sites, which are in view of the public, since December 2008. The use of distinctive clothing has been monitored. During the quarter April to June 2009 over one million hours of Community Payback were undertaken by offenders wearing distinctive clothing. If the hon. Member has specific concerns I would be glad to hear from him.

A Home Office surveys show that public awareness of Community Payback has increased from 49 per cent. in November 2008 to 74 per cent. in April 2009.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people who had been placed on the high visibility payback scheme were rearrested within three months of participating on the scheme since its inception. [287970]

Mr. Straw: Information is unavailable relating to the re-arrest of offenders who have been required to wear distinctive high visibility clothing when undertaking Community Payback sentences.

The most recent information available relating to reoffending by adults is for those sentenced during the first three months of 2007. Offenders sentenced to Community Payback (unpaid work) during this period had a 25.8 per cent. rate of reoffending. This is the lowest rate of reoffending of the top five commonly used community orders, though it may only reflect the characteristics of offenders sentenced to Community Payback rather than simply the effectiveness of Community Payback in reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

Corporal Punishment: Young people

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent guidance his Department has issued to young offender institutions on the prohibition on corporal punishment in the juvenile secure estate. [288439]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has not issued any recent guidance to young offender institutions on the prohibition of corporal punishment in the Young People's secure estate.

Corporal punishment in prisons was abolished under Section 65 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967. This section of the Act remains in force.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women have been convicted for each offence involving violence against the person in each of the last 10 years. [291774]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of females found guilty at all courts for offences of violence against the person by offence, in England and Wales, from 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009.

Number of females found guilty at all courts for offences of violence against the person by offence, 1998 to 2007[1, 2]*, England and Wales*

Offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Indictable offences										
Murder	9	16	13	17	11	19	18	24	14	19
Attempted murder	6	3	7	3	4	4	8	1	4	4
Threat or conspiracy to murder	43	40	38	38	43	46	50	47	35	44
Manslaughter	35	27	28	32	36	31	26	41	21	24
Infanticide	2	8	2	5	3	—	—	2	1	2
Child destruction	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Number of females found guilty at all courts for offences of violence against the person by offence, 1998 to 2007[1, 2]*, England and Wales*

Offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Causing death by dangerous driving	4	11	10	13	9	6	13	15	12	21
Manslaughter due to diminished responsibility	3	5	5	4	4	1	3	3	—	1
Causing death by dangerous driving while under the influence of drink or drugs	5	5	2	2	9	4	4	5	7	8
Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	1	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	2	1
Wounding or other act endangering life	99	92	93	100	103	104	146	137	108	119
Endangering railway passenger	—	2	3	1	—	—	1	2	1	6
More serious offences	207	210	202	215	225	215	270	278	206	253
Other wounding, etc.	3,301	3,088	3,226	2,997	3,314	3,359	3,548	3,874	3,977	3,985
Cruelty to or neglect of children	210	270	247	223	247	271	307	283	257	260
Abandoning children aged under two years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Child abduction	8	10	6	6	8	13	10	13	16	5
Procuring illegal abortion	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Concealment of birth	1	1	1	1	—	3	—	3	2	1
Less serious offences	3,521	3,369	3,480	3,228	3,569	3,646	3,865	4,173	4,254	4,252
Total indictable violence against the person	3,728	3,579	3,682	3,443	3,794	3,861	4,135	4,451	4,460	4,505
Summary offences										
Common assault, etc.	3,209	3,611	3,696	3,826	4,267	4,536	5,519	6,550	7,283	8,068
Total indictable and summary offences of violence against the person	6,937	7,190	7,378	7,269	8,061	8,397	9,654	11,001	11,743	12,573

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Criminal Injuries Compensation: Driving Offences

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the costs incurred under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in relation to injuries and deaths caused by uninsured drivers in the latest period for which figures are available. [289963]

Claire Ward: Injuries or deaths caused by drivers, uninsured or otherwise, are not covered by the terms of the criminal injuries compensation scheme (CICS), except where the driver used the vehicle deliberately to inflict, or to attempt to inflict, injury. Otherwise, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (which administers the CICS) refers victims of road traffic incidents to the Motor Insurers' Bureau, an industry-sponsored body which can compensate victims of uninsured drivers.

Cycling: Prosecutions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been for offences related to riding a bicycle on the pavement in each police force area in the last year for which figures are available. [289246]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for riding a pedal cycle on a footpath, England and Wales, broken down by police force area, in 2007 (latest available) is shown in the table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for "riding a pedal cycle on a footpath" under section 72 of the 1835 Highway Act, in England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 2007[1, 2, 3]

Force	*Proceeded against*
Bedfordshire	2
Cambridgeshire	3
Cleveland	10
Cumbria	9
Dorset	14
Durham	3
Greater Manchester	4
Hampshire	9
Humberside	12
Kent	4
Lancashire	2
Leicestershire	1
Lincolnshire	2
London, City of	3
Merseyside	3

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for "riding a pedal cycle on a footpath" under section 72 of the 1835 Highway Act, in England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 2007[1, 2, 3]

Force	*Proceeded against*
Metropolitan Police	17
Norfolk	2
Northumbria	21
North Yorkshire	6
Nottinghamshire	4
Staffordshire	1
Suffolk	1
Thames Valley	1
West Mercia	3
West Midlands	8
West Yorkshire	1
Wiltshire	3
England and Wales	149

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Where a police force area is not listed in the table, nil data is recorded.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Data Protection

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the evidence submitted by the Information Commissioner's Office to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee in its inquiry into self-regulation of the press, which journalists received data supplied by Hampshire-based private investigators under Operations Glade and Motorman. [289726]

Mr. Wills: In 2006, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) carried out an investigation into data protection offences under Operation Motorman. This investigation led to a further investigation by the Metropolitan Police Service under Operation Glade.

The ICO published two special reports to Parliament, 'What Price Privacy?' and 'What Price Privacy Now?', which relate to these investigations but did not name the journalists involved. Under Section 59 of the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998, the Information Commissioner is generally prohibited from disclosing information obtained by him under the provisions of the DPA which relates to an identifiable individual or business and has not previously been made publicly available, for example, names of journalists or the organisations they work for.

This information has been supplied by the ICO.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Information Commissioner on the outcomes of Operation Motorman and related investigations and its findings relating to data illegally obtained from British Telecom, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the Police National Computer; and if he will make a statement. [289729]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) presented two special reports to Parliament in 2006 about the illegal trade in personal information.

Although there have been no recent discussions between the Secretary of State for Justice and the Information Commissioner on this subject, the Ministry of Justice and the ICO work closely together to ensure that all data controllers understand their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Government are currently considering whether now is the appropriate time to consult on introducing custodial sentences for the knowing or reckless misuse of personal data.

Debt Collection

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the means by which bailiffs identify themselves on the doorstep; and if he will make a statement. [289253]

Bridget Prentice: Bailiff powers and their conduct is a sensitive and complex issue and has been the subject of considerable assessment, debate and consultation over the last 10 years.

The National Standards for Enforcement Agents published in 2002 by the then Lord Chancellor's Department states,

> "Enforcement agents should always produce relevant identification on request, such as a badge or ID card, together with a written authorisation to act on behalf of the creditor."

The guidance is not a legally binding document and does not replace local agreements, existing agency codes of practice or legislation; rather it sets out what the Ministry, those in the industry and some major users regard as minimum standards.

The Government announced, on 17 March 2009, measures to strengthen regulation of the enforcement industry that will raise standards of professionalism within the industry and give the public greater confidence in it. The regulatory framework will include a mandatory code of conduct that will address the means by which enforcement agents identify themselves on the doorstep.

A forthcoming consultation paper will set out the Government's intentions for a package of measures which will address concerns that have been raised about the behaviour of bailiffs and proposals for the regulation of the bailiff industry. The intention is to commence this consultation exercise in January 2010 with a view to implementing the changes in April 2012.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bailiffs were on the online bailiff register on the latest date for which figures are available. [289257]

Bridget Prentice: As at 1 October 2009, there were 1,679 certificated bailiffs on the HMCS online certificated bailiff register.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising by publication in the latest year for which figures are available. [289477]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice does not record information centrally at a level of detail that would allow for the specific identification of advertising expenditure by publication. Such information is held locally by courts, prisons and probation boards throughout England and Wales and could be collated only at disproportionate cost. The vast majority of advertising expenditure incurred by the Ministry, however, relates to staff recruitment.

Departmental Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on consultants to assist Ministers of his Department in their parliamentary duties in the last 12 months. [289202]

Mr. Straw: Nil.

Departmental Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the error rate in each database run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [291834]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice takes its responsibilities for maintaining the integrity of the data stored on its databases very seriously. Although there is no process for summarising the number of inaccurate records, there are systems in place to maximise the accuracy of the data held on the relevant systems. Any inaccurate records that are found on the system are corrected as soon as they are identified.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* BlackBerrys and *(c)* laptop computers were issued to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following (A) loss and (B) theft of the previous device. [290246]

Mr. Wills: Departmental mobile telephones, BlackBerrys and laptops are provided through service contracts with external suppliers. They are usually allocated from a central pool and returned to the pool for re-allocation when no longer required.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) was established in May 2007. Numbers of BlackBerry, laptop and mobile telephone users for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given as follows:

	Number
2007-08	
BlackBerry users	510
Laptop users	1,511
Mobile Phone Users	961
2008-09	
BlackBerry users	878
Laptop users	1,997
Mobile phone users	863

Figures for BlackBerry and laptop users are taken from the Department's central records which cover MOJ headquarters and main business areas, including Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) and the Tribunals Service. The figures for mobile phone users are for MOJ headquarters only. Larger business areas, including HMCS and the Tribunals Service, manage mobile telephone provision locally and these figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In addition, numbers for the National Offender Management Service, taken from their central records are as follows:

	Average laptop volumes	*Average BlackBerry volumes*	*Average mobile telephone volumes*
2005	2,709	0	3,741
2006	2,447	0	4,156
2007	2,094	0	4,484
2008	2,740	393	4,775

It would require an extensive data gathering exercise to identify the further detailed information requested. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff within the Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290252]

Mr. Wills: In the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), all staff may apply for flexible working options. For the past five years, these options have included flexi-time, compressed hours, reduced hours, job-share and job split, part year, annualised hours, home working and remote working.

In NOMS, flexible working options are available to staff in administrative, professional and technological, psychological, secretarial and office support grades, and grade E managers and below. For the past five years, flexible working options have included job-sharing and part-time hours.

Managers consider all requests to work flexibly, taking into consideration the needs of the business and the individual. Many requests for flexible working may be made informally between managers and staff and therefore will not be formally recorded. Information concerning how many staff participate in such arrangements is not collated centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 84W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by his Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288998]

Mr. Wills: All the named post holders have Internet Explorer version 7 on their desktop or laptop computers.

Departmental Location

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timescale he has set for completion of his Department's proposed accommodation relocation and rationalisation project; which potential locations have been shortlisted; whether he proposes to build the proposed office accommodation under a private finance initiative scheme; and if he will make a statement. [289475]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice is developing a feasibility study and business case for potentially establishing a national justice centre hub for HQ functions that do not need to be based in central London.

The long-term objective is to reduce the high cost London presence and to focus London based activity to business critical requirements of supporting Ministers and conducting core strategic policymaking.

This is part of a five year estates plan and excludes prisons, courts, tribunals and other operational services which are included in separate operational estate strategies.

A thorough process is being undertaken and a set of criteria is currently being established with the close involvement of both the Office of Government Commerce and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The criteria are wide ranging covering not only value for money considerations but also the socioeconomic impacts, local and regional partnerships, labour market and career opportunities, transport links and sustainability, health and social factors as well as others.

A list of potential locations has not yet been established and no decisions have been made about the scale, staffing or financial arrangements of any potential future locations.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff in his Department at each civil service pay band. [290248]

Mr. Wills: The average length of service for each responsibility level within MoJ, including the public sector Prison Service and National Offender Management Service Headquarters (NOMS) is shown in the following table.

The current MoJ (excluding NOMS) pay band structure was introduced on 1 August 2007, as part of the pay deal. This resulted in the amalgamation of Grades 6 and 7. As a result of this change, it is not possible to report separately on these grades.

Ministry of Justice length of service as at 31 July 2009

Responsibility level	*Average length of service (years)*
AA	6.0
AO	8.3
EO	10.7
HEO	10.9
SEO	10.1
Grade 6+7	10.8
Senior civil service	8.9
Overall average	9.2

Source:
Oracle HR systems (NOMS + MoJ HQ)

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours were worked by each special adviser in his Department in each week between 8 June 2009 to 3 July 2009. [289903]

Mr. Straw: As working for me as a Special Adviser is, I am told, pure pleasure and stress free, my Special Advisers work exceptionally long hours, often at weekends and late into the evening without complaint, and have not therefore felt the need which they otherwise might to complete timesheets to show that I was sweating their labour.

Departmental Non-departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible; and what the budget of each was in each of the last three years. [289904]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ)'s Resource Accounts 2008-09 stated that for the year ended 31 March 2009, the MOJ was responsible for nine executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). Due to Machinery of Government changes, the MOJ has not been responsible for all of these nine NDPBs during the last three years. Advisory NDPBs have not been included in this answer as the data are not readily available centrally. Please see the link below for further information about MOJ sponsored bodies, correct as of March 2009 at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/sponsored-bodies-2009-revised.pdf

The following table shows the cash grant paid to each executive NDPB by MOJ for 2009-10 and the two previous years[1]:

			£ Million
NDPB	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Legal services commission	2,149	2,147	2,162
Information commissioner's office	5	5	6
Judicial appointments commission	6	7	8
Parole board	—	8	10
Youth justice board	—	443	443
Criminal injuries compensation authority	—	191	238

NDPB	2007-08	2008-09	£ Million 2009-10
Criminal cases review commission	—	7	7
Office for legal complaints[2]	—	—	6
Legal services board[2]	—	—	3

[1] Figures are taken from the Main Estimate of each respective year. 2007-08 figures are for the Department for Constitutional Affairs as opposed to the Ministry of Justice.

[2] The source of funding to the Office for Legal Complaints and Legal Services Board is a levy upon the legal industry as per the Legal Services Act 2007 and so MOJ funding will be reimbursed.

Departmental Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties owned by his Department were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the total rates liability was in each year. [290253]

Mr. Straw: There are four properties owned by the Ministry of Justice that were liable for business rates in each of the last five years. None of these properties qualified for empty property rates.

The total rates bill for these properties over the last five years is as follows:

(£)

	Gwydyr House, 65 Whitehall, SWIA 2NP	Abell House, John Islip Street, London SWIP 4LH	Cleland House, Page St, London, SWIP 4LN	Ashley House, Monck St, London, SWIP 2BQ
2004-05	45,600	1,360,248	1,163,712	214,320
2005-06	48,108	1,278,660	1,084,540	256,154
2006-07	49,362	1,311,990	1,112,810	262,831
2007-08	50,616	1,345,320	1,141,080	269,508
2008-09	52,668	1,399,860	1,187,340	280,434
Total	246,354	6,696,078	5,689,482	1,283,247

Figures from the estate of Her Majesty's Court Service and the National Offender Management Service are not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the average duration of such leave was. [290251]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) allows new fathers to take up to 10 working days paternity leave providing they meet the qualifying criteria including continuous employment for at least 26 weeks.

Information from 2006-07 to present is shown in the following table but it should be noted the data are recorded using calendar days and cannot be converted to working days. Earlier figures were not held centrally.

Annual paternity statistics for Ministry of Justice (excluding National Offender Management Service (NOMS))

	Number of staff	Average number of days (calendar)
2006-07 (Department for Constitutional Affairs)	56	12.55
2007-08 (Ministry of Justice HQ—Excluding NOMS)	71	13.73
2008-09 (Ministry of Justice HQ—Excluding NOMS)	70	12.19

The information requested for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is not held centrally and to obtain it would entail manually examining large numbers of individual files at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last five years. [288792]

Mr. Straw: As the Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 information is available only for the last two financial years:

£

	2008-09	2007-08
Ministry of Justice HQ	930,866	[1]474,818
HM Courts Service	8,216,255	7,853,817
Tribunal Service	2,630,956	2,367,064
Office of Public Guardian	10,392	6,440
National Offenders Management Service (NOMS)	629,000	[1]449,000
Total:	12,417,469	11,151,139

[1] In 2007-08, expenditure by certain parts of the Department—the Office of Criminal Justice Reform in Ministry of Justice headquarters, and headquarters functions within the current NOMS agency—were recorded on the Home Office's accounting system, reflecting the way functions were organised prior to 9 May 2007. Details of this expenditure could be obtained only from Home Office systems at disproportionate cost. The 2007-08 NOMS figure reflects expenditure by the former HM Prison Service agency only.

In addition to this factor, the increase in expenditure reflects increases in postal charges from April 2008 and a greater use of tracked services including recorded post and courier services, reflecting an increased concern for data security when posting information.

All expenditure with the Royal Mail is in line with the principles set out in HM Treasury's manual "Managing Public Money", and the Treasury handbook on "Propriety and Regularity".

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289736]

Mr. Wills: I am the Minister with responsibility for value for money in the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). The MOJ is committed to reforming and improving public services for the citizen and there are a number of teams across the department that are working closely with colleagues in the centre of Government to achieve this. The MOJ's Performance and Efficiency Programme (PEP) was set up to ensure the department delivers efficiencies of over £1 billion in the three years running up to March 2011. This programme is supported by a small PEP team which helps coordinate the work of the wider department.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289672]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007. This answer gives the figure for 2007-08 which is the latest period for which figures are available.

The proportion of waste the Ministry of Justice recycled in 2007-08 was 15,635.6 tonnes and the percentage recycled was 22 per cent. This information was published in the seventh annual "Sustainable Development in Government" Report (SDiG) at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/publications.php?id=853

2008-09 data will be published in December.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of attendance on each such course. [289704]

Mr. Wills: In the 12 month period from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009 records show that 2,500 Ministry of Justice staff attended external courses. This figure excludes the National Offender Management Service, as to obtain this information would involve identifying and contacting sources of information in many different locations at a disproportionate cost. Responsibility for decisions on training rests with line managers, again there is no central collation of management information on the cost of attendance of these courses and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel and *(d)* hotels for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289977]

Mr. Straw: All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code. Since 1999, the Cabinet Office has published a list of all overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. Information for the financial year 2008-09 was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

All travel and hotel booking by Ministry of Justice staff members is completed in line with the published rules for official travel and subsistence within the staff handbook. The rules are in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

It is not possible to identify other expenditure on travel and hotels incurred specifically by Ministers without incurring the disproportionate costs as a significant proportion of hotel bookings, air travel, train travel and car hire are arranged through travel management companies employed by the Ministry to obtain best value for money options. Expenditure may also be incurred directly by staff and reimbursed through an expense claim process or charged to a Government Procurement Card (GPC). The GPC is a credit card operated by Barclays bank designed to limit transaction processing costs for low value, ad-hoc expenses. Expense claim records and log books detailing expenditure on the GPC card are held locally across the organisation, including by courts and prisons across the country. Examination and analysis of local records to identify amounts relating specifically to hotels, air travel, train travel and car hire for the last five years would incur disproportionate cost.

Travel and hotel costs incurred by Directors General and the Permanent Secretary within the Ministry in 2008-09 are published on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/moj-business-costs-0809.htm

Directors General and Permanent Secretary costs have also been published quarterly on the website since July 2009.

The annual departmental resource accounts disclose expenditure on "travel, subsistence and hospitality" in notes 10 (administration expenditure) and 11 (programme expenditure). Resource accounts were published by the Ministry of Justice for 2007-08 and 2008-09 and prior to that by the Ministry's predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs. All published accounts can be found at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/

Analysis of published totals to identify amounts relating specifically to hotels, air travel, train travel and car hire for the last five years would incur disproportionate cost. The majority of expenditure is recorded within the Ministry's accounting records against a general "travel and subsistence" category which includes, in addition, subsistence allowances where, for example, staff are required to stay away from home overnight.

The information that is held under the "travel and subsistence" category in the accounts includes non-civil servants, for example, judiciary and probation personnel. To calculate these costs, it would be necessary for the central procurement team to trawl manual records for the last five years. This is not possible since the procurement contracts have changed during this period as have the structure of the Department following Machinery of Government Changes.

Officials are now working to improve significantly the data held in this area.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for the offence of driving without insurance in each of the last five years. [289333]

Claire Ward: The number of findings of guilt for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 is shown in the following table.

An amendment to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, s. 143 means that driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks a fixed penalty offence as from 1 June 2003. Initially, offenders are, when appropriate, offered a £200 fixed penalty; this can be increased to a maximum of £5,000 if the matter goes to court.

2008 data will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of findings of guilt for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks at all courts, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against
2003	323,372
2004	322,816
2005	289,348
2006	267,673
2007	232,811

[1] Includes offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).

[2] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Electoral Register

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to encourage people to complete and return electoral registration forms. [291469]

Mr. Wills: Encouraging people to complete and return electoral registration forms is the responsibility of electoral registration officers (EROs), in local authorities, under a duty placed on them by section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EA Act), which requires them to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the canvass form more than once, inspecting such records that the ERO is allowed to inspect, and making house-to-house inquiries.

The EA Act also provided for the Electoral Commission to introduce a performance standards framework for EROs. The standards provide a framework within which the performance of EROs in registering people can be assessed, and targeted work undertaken to drive up performance where necessary. The first assessments against these standards were published on 21 April 2009 and are available on the Commission's website.

The Government also established a funding mechanism to support novel and innovative projects and activities which EROs and returning officers take forward in pursuance of their duty, under section 69 of the EA Act to encourage electoral participation. Through this, funding has been made available for a range of schemes to support registration.

In addition, the Government recently legislated in the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 for the phased implementation of Individual Registration (IR) in Great Britain. This will be supported by a programme of work to drive up registration rates in Great Britain, enhancing both the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the electoral registers.

This programme will include: data matching pilots between EROs and local authorities to support registration; and secondary legislation to support registration amongst service voters, enhance data sharing in areas where there are two tier local authorities, and clarify that the section 9 duty applies all year round. The Government have also initiated a registration poster campaign in Citizens Advice Bureaux, the network of HM courts in England, Wales and Scotland and Jobcentre Plus offices.

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics show that during the last three years registration rates continued to rise. As of 1 December 2008 the number of UK parliamentary electors rose to 45.2 million.

Employment Tribunals Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times his Department has been taken to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; what the primary reason cited in each case was; and in how many cases the tribunal found in favour of *(a)* the employee and *(b)* his Department. [290249]

Mr. Straw: The data are held centrally only for the two years since the establishment of the Ministry of Justice. To obtain the data now for previous years would incur disproportionate costs.

The following tables show the position at the end of each of the last two financial years in respect of the number of claims issued at the Employment Tribunal against the Ministry of Justice, and their outcomes. All of the claims shown in the tables were defended by the Ministry at the initial stage in the process.

The total number of people employed by the Ministry of Justice varies from day-to-day. The claims made are from an employment population of circ. 79,840 in 2007-08 and 80,750 in 2008-09. The staff numbers used are published headcount figures on 31 March 2009 held on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk

	Claims heard by employment tribunals	*In favour of employee*	*In favour of MOJ*	*Outstanding*
2007-08				
Age discrimination	16	0	6	10
Disability discrimination	30	0	16	14
Equal pay	58	0	2	[1]56
Pension rights	2	0	2	0
Race discrimination	16	1	10	5
Sexual discrimination	28	1	11	16
Terms of employment	3	0	0	3

	Claims heard by employment tribunals	In favour of employee	In favour of MOJ	Outstanding
Trade union activity	3	0	3	0
TUPE	1	0	1	0
Unfair/constructive dismissal	66	2	38	26
Wages claim	18	1	10	7
Whistleblowing	3	1	0	2
Working time regulations	1	0	0	1
Total	245	6	99	140
2008-09				
Age discrimination	5	0	0	5
Disability discrimination	30	0	5	25
Equal pay	3	0	0	3
Maternity leave pay	1	0	0	1
Non-standard casework	3	0	0	3
Other	4	0	1	3
Pension rights	0	0	0	0
Race discrimination	11	0	4	7
Sexual discrimination	23	0	3	20
Sexual orientation discrimination	1	0	0	1
Terms of employment	8	0	1	7
Trade union activity	4	0	2	2
Unfair/constructive dismissal	79	0	18	61
Wages claim	17	0	7	10
Whistleblowing	0	0	0	0
Working time regulations	1	0	0	1
Total	190	0	41	149

[1] 19 of these cases showing as outstanding have actually been finalised, but the outcomes had not been updated.

Equal Opportunities

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to increase equality in his Department. [287973]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has taken a number of steps to increase equality in the department to support the efficient delivery of our policies and services including ensuring that our staff have the opportunity to develop their full potential and are representative of the communities the Department serves.

During the past year we have launched MOJ's Equality Action Plan and Equality Audit Tool; developed our e-learning equality compliance training for staff; streamlined our equality impact assessment procedure, published our Equal Pay Audit, and launched our Equality and Diversity portal. We have also recently published our Equality Schemes Annual Review setting out our progress during 2008-09.

Ethnic Minorities: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people from ethnic minority backgrounds are employed by his Department. [287972]

Mr. Wills: On 31 July 2009 (the latest date for which figures are available) 6,388 of the 69,677 Ministry of Justice employees who voluntarily declared their ethnicity, were recorded as Black or Minority Ethnic (BME). This represents 9.1 per cent. of all employees with known ethnicity. There are 10,544 members of staff who have not declared their ethnic origin and so we are unable to provide figures for them.

Fines: Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* lowest, *(b)* average and *(c)* highest fine given to a person convicted of possession of (i) cannabis, (ii) ecstasy, (iii) cocaine, (iv) crack cocaine and (v) heroin has been in each year since 1997. [291253]

Claire Ward: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Average, maximum and minimum fine amounts imposed at all courts by drug type and year, 1997 to 2007, England and Wales

Drug type and year		Fine Minimum (£)	Maximum (£)	Average (£)
Cannabis	1997	<5	2,400	82.06
	1998	<5	3,060	78.27
	1999	<5	1,300	75.41
	2000	<5	3,350	74.87
	2001	<5	2,000	72.12
	2002	<5	2,000	66.27
	2003	<5	5,000	70.58
	2004	5	5,000	71.14
	2005	<5	5,000	73.65
	2006	<5	1,000	78.90
	2007	<5	1,400	80.93
Cocaine	1997	25	5,000	624.50
	1998	100	700	227.78
	1999	50	500	271.88
	2000	75	200	124.00

Average, maximum and minimum fine amounts imposed at all courts by drug type and year, 1997 to 2007, England and Wales

Drug type and year		Fine		
		Minimum (£)	Maximum (£)	Average (£)
	2001	50	250	136.11
	2002	40	2,500	366.92
	2003	30	750	215.53
	2004	100	1,000	371.43
	2005	50	4,000	670.71
	2006	30	750	293.33
	2007	30	1,000	326.05
Crack cocaine	1997	180	180	180.00
	1998	75	100	83.33
	1999	125	200	162.50
	2000	50	50	50.00
	2001	100	300	190.00
	2002	100	150	125.00
	2003	75	75	75.00
	2004	50	250	183.33
	2005	50	1,500	321.43
	2006	20	120	80.00
	2007	25	60	38.33
Ecstasy (MDMA)	1997	40	750	209.33
	1998	100	750	269.09
	1999	75	2,000	359.06
	2000	50	1,000	246.50
	2001	100	1,500	403.00
	2002	50	1,000	291.14
	2003	40	1,000	356.46
	2004	75	650	272.50
	2005	100	1,000	500.00
	2006	100	500	210.00
	2007	250	2,500	678.57
Heroin	1997	70	2,000	406.25
	1998	50	300	155.77
	1999	50	500	194.44
	2000	75	300	161.25
	2001	25	600	163.75
	2002	60	250	142.78
	2003	60	2,500	455.00
	2004	25	100	58.33
	2005	80	300	155.00
	2006	25	240	103.75
	2007	25	100	65.83

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

When a case is referred to Court, the amount of the fine is based not only on the nature of the offence and mitigation presented, but also on the Defendant's ability to pay. The Court will establish the latter by way of the Statement of Means which is a questionnaire designed to clarify the Defendant's income and outgoings.

Forced Marriages Act 2008: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been for offences under the Forced Marriage Act 2008 since its introduction. [291550]

Claire Ward: The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 was implemented in November 2008 providing greater protection for those at risk, preventing forced marriage and enabling courts to make forced marriage protection orders (FMPOs). These are civil provisions. There is not a separate Forced Marriage Act 2008.

I am told that since implementation of the Act on 25 November 2008, up to 31 August 2009, a total of 64 FMPOs have been made.

Land: Registration

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the Land Registry Annual Report 2007-08, what criteria the Land Registry applies in respect of the level of fees it charges for adjudication hearings; and if he will make a statement; [290076]

(2) how much the Land Registry received in fees for adjudication hearings in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [290078]

Mr. Wills: The Adjudicator to HM Land Registry is a judicial office within the Tribunal Service and is independent of the Land Registry, with specific powers to determine disputes referred under section 73(7) of the Land Registration Act 2002. The Land Registry must refer cases to the Adjudicator when there is a disputed application which cannot be resolved by agreement between the parties concerned. Applications may also be made directly to the Adjudicator for correcting or setting aside a document relating to registered land, and he hears appeals in relation to network access agreements.

The Land Registry does not charge a fee when a matter is referred to the Adjudicator and has not received any fees for adjudication hearings. The Land Registration Act 2002 gives the Lord Chancellor power to prescribe fees for proceedings before the Adjudicator; that power has not been exercised and the services are currently free of charge. The Adjudicator is able to make orders for costs in relation to proceedings before him, unless the parties concerned have agreed who should pay.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many adjudication hearings the Land Registry has held in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [290077]

Mr. Wills: All adjudication hearings are held by the Adjudicator to HM Land Registry, which is an independent office created by the Land Registration Act 2002. The Land Registry has therefore made reference to the Adjudicator to provide the data requested. The number of hearings in each of the last four financial years was as follows:

	Number of adjudication hearings
2005-06	90
2006-07	189
2007-08	255
2008-09	260

Libel: Internet

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress his Department has made in its review of the effects of the internet on the operation of libel laws. [292091]

Bridget Prentice: We published a consultation paper "Defamation and the Internet: the multiple publication rule" on 16 September 2009. This consultation seeks views on the effect of the multiple publication rule (which provides that each publication of defamatory material can form the basis of a new cause of action) in relation to online archives and will close on 16 December 2009.

The Government will consider other issues in relation to the law of libel in the light of any recommendations that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee may wish to make in its forthcoming report on its inquiry into Press Standards, Privacy and Libel.

Lockerbie: Bombings

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government (1) received representations from the US administration at the time of his decision to alter the terms of the proposed UK-Libya Prisoner Transfer Agreement so that it did not exclude the case of Mr al-Megrahi; and if he will make a statement; [291165]

(2) informed the US administration at the time of its decision to alter the terms of the proposed UK-Libya Prisoner Transfer Agreement so that it did not exclude the case of Mr al-Megrahi; and if he will make a statement. [291166]

Mr. Straw: Throughout the negotiations on the prisoner transfer agreement (PTA) between the United Kingdom and Libya the US Government were kept informed of developments. The United States Government maintained their view that Mr. Al-Megrahi should serve out his sentence in Scotland.

It was always the position of the UK Government that excluding Mr. Megrahi from the terms of the treaty was not necessary. The PTA did not confer a right to transfer on prisoners. Transfer could only take place if both Governments concerned agreed. In the event that Mr. Megrahi's application under the PTA was refused by the Scottish Executive.

Manpower

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts let by his Department were awarded to businesses with fewer than 50 employees in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such contracts was in each such year. [287804]

Mr. Wills: At present information relating to the size (number of people) and status of businesses is not captured as standard practice when contracts are awarded to suppliers. Therefore, the requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 4 June 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs A Barry. [290239]

Mr. Straw: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 25 July and I apologise for the delay.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget of each major area of expenditure of the National Offender Management Service is for 2009-10. [290320]

Mr. Straw: The budget of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) for 2009-10 by major area of expenditure as published in the 2009 Main Estimates, is shown in the following table:

2009-10 Departmental expenditure limits

	(£ million)
NOMS HQ	332.6
NOMS Operations	3,477.9
National Probation Boards Grant in aid (includes £3 million capital)	783.4
Total	4,593.9

Since the creation of the new NOMS agency in 2008, there is no longer a natural separation of budgets and expenditure between HQ and other services and the methodology used for the above classification has proved difficult to maintain. It is intended to propose an amendment to this classification in a Supplementary Estimate to make "HQ" synonymous with the "Administration" classification also used in the Estimates. Taking into account this proposed amendment, the NOMS resource budget can be broken down over the following more detailed headings:

	(£ million)
NOMS HQ	124
Public prisons	1,980
Private prisons	284
Probation (Boards and Trusts)	898
Prisoner Escort Services (PECS)	162
Electronic monitoring	92
Capacity Directorate (Major maintenance, property costs and increasing prison capacity)	662
Other programme spend supporting Operational Delivery	389
Total	4,591

There is no current breakdown of the NOMS budget for 2010-11 as decisions have not been made on allocation of 2010-11 budgets.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for the National Offender Management Service headquarters is for 2010-11. [290324]

Maria Eagle: The allocation of the 2010-11 resource budget for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is not yet finalised. The Main Estimates, which will provide the funding for the three funding streams of NOMS HQ, Operations and Probation boards, are expected to be laid before Parliament in the spring of 2010.

Political Parties: Finance

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to introduce spending limits on parliamentary candidates. [289630]

Mr. Wills: Section 21 of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 will introduce pre-candidacy spending limits on the election expenses of individuals at certain general elections. These spending limits will apply if and when a Parliament runs for over 55 months. In the case of the current Parliament, the spending limit would apply to all election expenses used after 1 January 2010, should Parliament not be dissolved before that date.

As I made clear at Commons Report stage of the Political Parties and Elections Bill on 9 February, these provisions will not be commenced until restrictions on the use of the Communications Expenditure have been agreed by the House. As my hon. Friend, the Deputy Leader of the House (Barbara Keeley) made clear in a written answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 800W, the Leader of the House hopes to bring forward the necessary amendments shortly after the summer adjournment.

Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 months; [287967]

(2) how many press officers his Department employs. [288036]

Mr. Wills: Between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 the Ministry of Justice press office issued 183 press notices. These were sent to national, regional and international media and highlighted the work and policies of the Department. Writing and issuing press notices is a small part of a press officer's job which also includes elements such as providing a round-the-clock service to global media outlets, arranging and attending media facilities with Ministers, arranging media interviews and media monitoring.

As at 31 August 2009, the Ministry of Justice employed 40 press officers. This includes a press officer on maternity leave. Staffing levels in the Ministry's Communications Directorate now more adequately reflect the high level of media interest in the work of the Department, and the need to meet the high demands of a 24/7 media. It is right that the public know and understand the work of the MOJ and its agencies and how taxpayers' money is being spent. Communications, including the work of the press office, is an important element of this.

Prison Accommodation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to improve prison conditions. [287963]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 668-69W.

The National Offender Management Service has a statutory duty to hold all prisoners in decent conditions.

As part of our commitment to increase the capacity of the prison estate to 96,000 places, we are building new prisons and expanding existing prisons. The new buildings produced by this capacity programme are providing modern accommodation that is fully compliant with relevant standards such as the new safer cell specification.

In addition, on 27 April I announced that, instead of building three 2,500 place "Titan" prisons, we plan to build five 1,500 place prisons. Our model will draw on best practice in the existing estate to provide first class regimes that will help offenders address their offending behaviour. The 7,500 places provided by these new prisons will allow for the closure of some of the most worn out places.

These measures support our aim not only to provide additional capacity, but to modernise the estate and improve the quality of accommodation.

For existing accommodation, we have a rolling programme of refurbishment that allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of steps taken to reduce overcrowding in prisons in England and Wales. [291392]

Mr. Straw: The Government have been pursuing a clear strategy to increase capacity in the prison estate and to ensure that custody is properly targeted at those serious, dangerous and persistent offenders for whom imprisonment is necessary.

Since April 2007, over 5,200 places have been provided by the Capacity Programme and in 2009 alone, nearly 1,000 places have been delivered to date.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average *(a)* tariff and *(b)* time served by offenders sentenced to (i) a mandatory life sentence and (ii) a discretionary life sentence was in each of the last 10 years. [287898]

Mr. Straw: Details of prisoners' releases are published in the 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics' (OMCS) produced by Offender Management and Sentence Analytical Services in the Ministry of Justice. This is available in the Library of the House and is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/pulicatons/statistics

OMCS provides details of the time served by offenders sentenced to a mandatory life sentence, and by all other life sentenced offenders, not including offenders serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP).

Disaggregating the time served by those serving discretionary from the "other life sentenced offenders" in OMCS would incur disproportionate costs.

The following table sets out the average time, by number of years, served by mandatory and other lifers, by year of release:

	Mandatory Lifers	*Other Lifers*
1998	13	14
1999	13	16
2000	13	11
2001	13	9
2002	14	9
2003	15	12
2004	14	9
2005	14	6
2006	14	7
2007	16	9
2008	16	9

The following table sets out the average tariff length for sentences received in the same time period, for mandatory lifers and other lifers (not including indeterminate sentences for public protection), rounded to the nearest year, by year and sentence. As with any large scale recording system, they are subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

	Mandatory Lifers	*Other Lifers*
1998	13	6
1999	14	6
2000	14	5
2001	14	5
2002	13	5
2003	14	5
2004	15	6
2005	16	6
2006	19	8
2007	17	11
2008	18	11

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners who completed their sentence during *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008 served their entire sentence in prison. [291835]

Maria Eagle: In accordance with the legislation which governs the release of prisoners, no prisoner serving a determinate sentence is required to serve the entire sentence in prison. Successive legislation on this, since 1967, has maintained the approach that prisoners should serve a proportion of their sentence in custody and the rest in the community, often subject to licence conditions on release. This approach is vital for the purposes of safely reintegrating prisoners back into the community and to reduce the risk of further offending. If prisoners were to serve their whole sentence in prison they would have to be released without any supervision or restrictions, which would put the public at risk.

Only those prisoners serving a life sentence with a whole life tariff will spend their entire sentence in prison.

The following table shows the average percentage of sentence served (including time on remand) for prisoners discharged from determinate sentences in 2007 and 2008 from prison establishments in England and Wales.

	Percentage of time served including remand	
	2007	*2008*
Adult releases from prison 2007-08		
Up to and including 6 months	58	58
Over 6 months and less than 12 months	51	49
12 months and less than 4 years	60	61
4 years and less than life	65	63
All determinate sentences	62	61
Young offenders releases from prison 2007-08		
Up to and including 6 months	66	64
Over 6 months and up to and including 12 months	51	52
12 months and less than 4 years	53	54
4 years and less than life	61	59
All determinate sentences	57	56

This table is an extract from tables 9.1 and 9.2 in the recently published Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Service: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the difference was between the budget and the expenditure outturn for the Prison Service in the financial years *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [288804]

Maria Eagle: The budget and expenditure outturn figures for HM Prison Service (HMPS) are as follows:

(£)

	Resource budget	*Outturn expenditure*	*Underspend (Overspend)*
2007-08	2,057,504,000	2,053,165,000	4,339,000
2006-07	1,931,243,000	1,931,851,000	(608,000)
2005-06	1,792,965,000	1,826,031,000	(33,066,000)

Prison Service: Secondment

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff of his Department have been seconded to work on the Prison Service's in-house bid for the next round of market testing. [288823]

Maria Eagle: 29 staff have now been redeployed within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in response to the announcement made by the Lord Chancellor on 27 April 2009.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners escaped from each open prison in England and Wales in each of the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* 12 years for which figures are available; for which offence each prisoner was originally convicted; and which prisoners are still unlawfully at large. [288435]

Maria Eagle: Escapes involve a prisoner absenting himself from prison custody without lawful authority by overcoming a physical security restraint such as that provided by fences, locks, bolts and bars, a secure vehicle or handcuffs. Absconds occur where a prisoner absents himself or herself from prison custody without lawful authority and without overcoming physical security barriers or restraints, conditions typically found in open prisons. Absconds have been falling and last year recorded the lowest number of absconds on record.

The data in table 1 show the number of prisoners who have absconded from each open prison in England and Wales for the last 12 months and numbers of prisoners who remain unlawfully at large.

Table 2 shows the number of prisoners who have absconded from each open prison in England and Wales for the last 12 years and numbers of prisoners who remain unlawfully at large. Figures for prisoners unlawfully at large prior to April 2004 are not available centrally and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Table 3 shows the index offences of prisoners who have absconded from each open prison since April 2004. Data are not available centrally prior to this period and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All those located in open conditions have been risk assessed and categorised as being of low risk to the public. Time spent in open prisons affords prisoners the opportunity to find work, re-establish family ties, reintegrate into the community and ensure housing needs are met. For long-term prisoners these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

Prisons can and do take a variety of actions to try and reduce absconds. Open prisons operate intelligence systems to try and spot those who might be planning to abscond; prisoners are screened and those who are at significant risk of absconding are sent back to closed conditions; in many areas the prison, police and CPS are working together to maximise the prosecution of absconders to provide a deterrent to others who may be thinking of doing the same.

Table 1: Numbers of prisoners who have absconded from open prisons in England and Wales for the last 12 months (first row for each prison) and those who remain unlawfully at large (second row for each prison)

	2008						*2009*					
Establishments	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*
Askham Grange	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blantyre House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drake Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Sutton Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ford	3	7	5	6	5	4	4	2	4	2	1	0
	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Grendon/Springhill	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	5
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hewell	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	2	1	5	4
	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Hollesley Bay	1	3	1	1	1	3	0	0	2	2	1	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kirkham	1	2	4	5	6	4	0	3	0	4	0	2
	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirklevington	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latchmere House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leyhill	6	5	5	5	6	4	0	6	3	0	3	3
	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Moorland	2	4	6	1	3	1	1	3	4	3	3	5
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	2
Morton Hall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Sea Camp	0	1	1	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	1
	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Norwich (Resettlement Unit)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standford Hill	1	7	1	2	3	15	1	2	1	2	1	5
	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sudbury	2	2	0	2	1	2	4	1	4	3	1	1

Table 1: Numbers of prisoners who have absconded from open prisons in England and Wales for the last 12 months (first row for each prison) and those who remain unlawfully at large (second row for each prison)

	2008						2009					
Establishment	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*
	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thorn Cross	1	1	2	0	0	4	3	1	3	7	2	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Usk/Prescoed	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Note:
The second row of each establishment shows the number of prisoners still unlawfully at large.

Table 2: Numbers of prisoners who have absconded from open prisons in England and Wales for the last 12 years (first row for each prison) and those who remain unlawfully at large (second row for each prison)

Establishment	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Askham Grange	35	17	20	21	19	12	31	12	14	7	11	4
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Blantyre House	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Drake Hall[1]	122	134	94	39	33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
East Sutton Park	5	3	3	3	3	0	1	2	4	2	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	3	1	0	0
Ford	53	40	68	97	97	91	142	110	96	62	47	53
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	10	2	8
Grendon/Springhill	20	9	14	14	12	23	40	36	34	11	21	10
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	0	0	0
Hatfield[2]	77	80	36	34	50	56	0	0	0	0	0	36
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	1
Hewell Grange[3]	40	17	32	20	15	23	31	24	24	13	15	16
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1
Hollesley Bay	13	25	11	24	8	14	36	32	16	21	19	17
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	0
Kirkham	234	202	171	100	163	208	213	120	78	54	65	42
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	0	1	3
Kirklevington[4]	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	0	6
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Latchmere House[5]	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Leyhill	20	25	34	25	19	33	104	102	66	37	55	58
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	4	4
Moorland[6]	1	1	0	0	0	0	60	73	49	41	23	36
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1	0	0	1
Morton Hall[7]	20	15	23	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	1	0	0
North Sea Camp	23	32	27	24	36	34	79	33	49	48	46	17
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	2	0	0	1
Norwich (Resettlement Unit)[8]	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	2	2	1	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Standford Hill	35	36	45	29	37	83	89	39	58	38	44	46
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	0	2	6
Sudbury	81	75	63	69	81	68	73	77	76	78	55	23
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	2	2	0	2
Thorn Cross	148	120	147	110	116	132	130	90	105	82	68	24
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Usk/Prescoed	7	13	19	14	3	8	35	19	9	9	8	6
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Numbers of prisoners who have absconded from open prisons in England and Wales for the last 12 years (first row for each prison) and those who remain unlawfully at large (second row for each prison)

Establishments	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Wealstun	48	70	72	105	79	101	144	74	28	46	32	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Drake Hall changed role to Semi Open in 2001-02 from Open
[2] Hatfield merged with Moorland in 2003-04
[3] Hewell - change of name from Hewell Grange June 2008
[4] Kirklevington changed role to Semi Open in 2001-02 from Category C
[5] Latchmere House changed role to Semi Open in 2001-02 from Open
[6] Morton Hall changed role to Semi Open in 2001-02 from Open'
[7] Norwich - Open Resettlement Unit

Notes:

1. Figures for prisoners unlawfully at large are unavailable centrally prior to April 2004.
2. The second row of each establishment shows the number of prisoners still unlawfully at large

Table 3: Breakdown of prisoners absconding from prisons in England and Wales between April 2004 to March 2009 showing main index offence

Main Index Offence	*Askham Grange*	*Blantyre House*	*East Sutton Park*	*Ford*	*Grendon/Springhill*	*Hewell*	*Hollesley Bay*	*Kirkham*	*Kirklevington*
Administer poison	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Affray	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	5	—
Aggravated burglary	1	—	—	2	4	1	2	5	1
Arson	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Arson with intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assault a police officer	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
Assault occasioning ABH	—	—	—	4	2	1	1	4	—
Assault with intent to cause ABH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Assault with intent to resist arrest	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Assault with intent to rob	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assisting illegal immigrants	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Attempt to commit rape	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempt to commit theft	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Attempt to pervert the course of justice	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—
Attempted burglary	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	—
Attempted deception	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Attempted robbery	—	—	—	3	3	3	2	6	—
Being carried in a stolen vehicle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
Blackmail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Breach of Bail	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of combination order	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of community service order	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	4	—
Breach of drug testing and treatment order	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	1	—
Breach of probation order	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Breach of restraining order	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of supervision order	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Breach of suspended sentence	—	—	—	3	1	1	2	6	
Burglary	5	—	1	48	23	25	20	91	4
Burglary of a dwelling place	1	—	—	37	3	1	3	15	—
Burglary of a non-dwelling place	—	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	—
Causing an explosion or placing explosive	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Common assault	—	—	—	5	—	—	1	—	—
Conspiracy to cause affray	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 3: Breakdown of prisoners absconding from prisons in England and Wales between April 2004 to March 2009 showing main index offence

Main Index Offence	*Askham Grange*	*Blantyre House*	*East Sutton Park*	*Ford*	*Grendon/Springhill*	*Hewell*	*Hollesley Bay*	*Kirkham*	*Kirklevington*
Conspiracy to commit a kidnap	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to commit burglary	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Conspiracy to commit a robbery	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—
Conspiracy to commit a theft	3	—	—	3	—	1	2	3	—
Conspiracy to defraud	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to import drugs	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to supply drugs	5	1	—	3	—	1	—	10	—
Conspiracy to riot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Contempt of court	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Customs evasion	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Customs evasion (drugs related)	—	—	1	5	1	—	4	—	—
Customs evasion (not drugs related)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Death by reckless driving	—	—	—	2	3	—	2	1	—
Debts	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deception	—	—	—	10	1	2	—	1	—
Driving under the influence of drink/drugs	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—
Driving whilst disqualified	—	—	—	19	4	4	6	16	—
Drunk	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Escape	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Escape lawful custody	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Fail to surrender	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Failure to provide specimen	—	—	—	—	—		1	—	—
False imprisonment	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	—
False instruments	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Forgery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fraud	—	1	—	4	1	—	—	—	—
GBH	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Going equipped to cheat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Going equipped for stealing	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Handling stolen goods	—	—	1	2	4	—	3	7	—
Holding warrant	2	—	—	5	—	1	—	4	—
Illegal immigrant/detainee	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	1	—
Import/export/drug	—	—	2	14	3	1	1	—	—
Inflict grievous bodily harm	1	—	—	4	2	4	5	5	—
Kidnapping	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Libel	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Make off without paying	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Making threats to kill	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Manslaughter	1	—	1	4	—	1	1	1	—
Murder	—	—	—	9	2	3	—	4	—
Obscene telephone calls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other burglary offences	—	—	—	6	3	4	2	9	1
Other criminal offences	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	3	—
Other driving offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other fraud/deception/financial offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 3: Breakdown of prisoners absconding from prisons in England and Wales between April 2004 to March 2009 showing main index offence

Main Index Offence	*Askham Grange*	*Blantyre House*	*East Sutton Park*	*Ford*	*Grendon/Springhill*	*Hewell*	*Hollesley Bay*	*Kirkham*	*Kirklevington*
Other violence offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Perjury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of drugs	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	1	—	—	7	3	2	8	20	—
Possession of an offensive weapon	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	3	—
Possession of firearm with intent, endanger life	—	—	—	4	4	2		3	—
Rape	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Receiving stolen goods	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Reckless driving	—	—	—	8	1	—	2	6	—
Road traffic Act (No/Lic/lights/bald tyres etc)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robbery	9	—	2	37	18	14	19	41	1
Sec 40 convictions during original sentence	1	—	—	1	2	3	1	—	—
Supplying drugs	11	—	—	13	2	3	3	14	2
Taking and driving away	—	—	—	7	2		2	9	—
Theft	1	—	—	20	3	5	2	26	—
Threatening/disorderly behaviour	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Treason	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Trespass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Trespass with intent	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Vehicle interference	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Violent disorder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Wounding with intent to inflict GBH	1	—	—	1	5	—	—	7	—
Wounding (inflicting GBH)	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	4	—
Recorded offence not available	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3
Total	48	2	8	368	112	92	105	335	12

Main Index Offence	*Leyhill*	*Moorland*	*North Sea Camp*	*Norwich*	*Standford Hill*	*Sudbury*	*Thorn Cross*	*Usk/Prescoed*	*Wealstun*
Administer poison	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Affray	2	4	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
Aggravated burglary	2	4	1	—	4	5	3	—	4
Arson	2	—	1	1	—	3	1	1	3
Arson with intent	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assault a police officer	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Assault occasioning ABH	4	5	2		3	2	8	—	3
Assault with intent to cause ABH	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Assault with intent to resist arrest	—	—	—	—	—		—	—	—
Assault with intent to rob	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Assisting illegal immigrants	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Attempt to commit rape	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Attempt to commit theft	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1
Attempt to pervert the course of justice		1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted burglary	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Attempted deception	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Attempted robbery	6	8	—	1	3	16	20	1	3

Main Index Offence	*Leyhill*	*Moorland*	*North Sea Camp*	*Norwich*	*Standford Hill*	*Sudbury*	*Thorn Cross*	*Usk/ Prescoed*	*Wealstun*
Being carried in a stolen vehicle	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Blackmail	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Breach of Bail	—	—	—	—	1			—	—
Breach of combination order	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Breach of community service order	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Breach of drug testing and treatment order	—	1	2	—	1	1		1	—
Breach of probation order	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Breach of restraining order	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breach of supervision order	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	—	1
Breach of suspended sentence	1	2	8	—	2	1	1	1	3
Burglary	81	61	56	4	45	76	94	11	42
Burglary of a dwelling place	13	2	7	—	10	5	10	—	4
Burglary of a non-dwelling place	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1
Causing an explosion or placing explosive	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common assault	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	1
Conspiracy to cause affray	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Conspiracy to commit a kidnap	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to commit burglary	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	1
Conspiracy to commit a robbery	—	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Conspiracy to commit a theft	6	2	3	—	3	3	2	1	1
Conspiracy to defraud	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Conspiracy to import drugs	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy to supply drugs	1	1	3	—	2	5	2	1	1
Conspiracy to riot	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Contempt of court	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage	—	—	1		1	—	2	—	—
Customs evasion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Customs evasion (drugs related)	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Customs evasion (not drugs related)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Death by reckless driving	2	3	2	—	—	3	3	2	3
Debts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deception	3	2	2	—	3	2			3
Driving under the influence of drink/drugs	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
Driving whilst disqualified	6	2	8	—	14	1	2	4	9
Drunk	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Escape	—	—		—	2	—	—	—	—
Escape lawful custody	4	—	1	—		—	2	—	—
Fail to surrender	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Failure to provide specimen	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
False imprisonment	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—
False instruments	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Forgery	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fraud	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
GBH	3	1	—	—	4	—	1	—	—
Going equipped to cheat	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

Main Index Offence	*Leyhill*	*Moorland*	*North Sea Camp*	*Norwich*	*Standford Hill*	*Sudbury*	*Thorn Cross*	*Usk/ Prescoed*	*Wealstun*
Going equipped for stealing	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Handling stolen goods	6	1	2	—	3	1	1	—	4
Holding warrant	4	8	—	—	1	4	—	—	5
Illegal immigrant/ detainee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Import/export/drug	4	—	1	—	2	4	—	—	—
Inflict grievous bodily harm	11	5	5	1	3	9	5	1	7
Kidnapping	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
Libel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Make off without paying	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Making threats to kill	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Manslaughter	2	1	2	—	—	3	2	—	1
Murder	11	—	5	—	5	15	—	1	3
Obscene telephone calls	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other burglary offences	5	2	1	—	5	5	1	3	4
Other criminal offences	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Other driving offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other fraud/deception/ financial offences	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Other violence offences	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Perjury	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of drugs	4	2	2	—	—	2	1	—	3
Possession of drugs with intent to supply	11	13	5	—	10	15	20	3	8
Possession of an offensive weapon	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	1	1
Possession of firearm with intent, endanger life	6	1	4	—	4	8	1	—	1
Rape	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Receiving stolen goods		—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Reckless driving	2	3	4	1	4	2	16	1	3
Road traffic Act (No/Lic/lights/bald tyres etc)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Robbery	51	38	17	1	18	52	67	9	28
Sec 40 convictions during original sentence	2	1	2	—	1	1	4	—	2
Supplying drugs	9	14	6	—	5	19	12	1	9
Taking and driving away	3	1	3	—	3	2	25		3
Theft	14	9	13	—	20	10	8	1	7
Threatening/disorderly behaviour	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Treason	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Trespass	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trespass with intent	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Vehicle interference	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent disorder	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	—	—
Wounding with intent to inflict GBH	5	3	2	2	4	5	16	1	2
Wounding (inflicting GBH)	5	3	1	—	—	2	8	—	2
Recorded offence not available	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	318	222	193	14	225	309	369	51	181

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisoners Release: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the 954 offenders who had their licence recalled in 2008-09 and were not returned to custody are foreign nationals. [291425]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2152-153W.

In my written ministerial statement of 6 July 2009, Audit of Licence Revocation, *Official Report*, columns 34-38WS, I announced that, as at 26 June 2009, 954 offenders who had their licences revoked between 1984 and 31 March 2009 were not recorded as having been returned to custody. Of the 954, there were 192 foreign nationals. Of the 192, 64 were assessed as meeting the criteria for deportation.

Over the last 10 years, more than 99 per cent. of offenders who have been recalled to prison have been successfully apprehended. We are determined to build on this creditable performance.

All agencies are working together to review and revise the end-to-end recall process, to ensure that we have the strongest grip on these individuals and can return them to custody as quickly as possible. The police have an action plan in place to deal with outstanding cases.

The Probation Service has significantly improved its enforcement of breaches. In 1997 only a third of breaches were being appropriately enforced, compared to over 95 per cent. by 2008. Before 1999 recall was rarely used because such cases had to go through the courts.

Prisoners Release: Reoffenders

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many early release prisoners have been re-arrested following release *(a)* since 1997 and *(b)* in the last 12 months; [290106]

(2) how many prisoners released under early release schemes in each year since 1997 were since convicted of offences of *(a)* murder and *(b)* rape. [290107]

Mr. Straw: Determinate sentenced prisoners may be released into the community earlier than the halfway point of their sentence only under either the End of Custody Licence (ECL) scheme or the Home Detention Curfew (HDC) scheme. Indeterminate sentenced prisoners are not eligible for early release.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold centrally details of all offenders released on ECL or HDC who have been re-arrested. The Department does hold data on the number of offenders released on HDC or ECL who were recalled to custody following release. An arrest in itself may not result in a recall—for example, where the police investigation does not result in any charges, the decision may be taken not to recall the offender.

Data on ECL releases, recalls and alleged re-offending are published every month on the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

The numbers recalled from ECL since the scheme's inception for all reasons are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	Number
29 June to 31 December 2007	564
1 January to 31 December 2008	1,030
1 January to 31 July 2009	583

The numbers of HDC recalls since its inception in January 1999 are published in the annual Offender Management Caseload Statistics and are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: HDC recalls since 1999

Year of recall	*Numbers recalled*
1999	700
2000	769
2001	673
2002	1,479
2003	2,716
2004	3,003
2005	2,627
2006	2,184
2007	1,654
2008	1,442

As regards those prisoners who were released early and were subsequently convicted of murder or rape, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) holds information on the number of offenders, whose cases were notified in line with Serious Further Offence (SFO) procedures, who had been released on licence and subsequently convicted of *(a)* murder and *(b)* rape, for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. To provide the full set of information from 1997 would require manual checking of files, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Of those released on HDC or ECL from 2006-07 onwards, NOMS has been notified that there have been four convictions for murder and two convictions for rape, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3

	HDC	*Year of conviction*	*ECL*	*Year of conviction*
Murder	2	1 in 2008 1 in 2009	2	1 in 2007 1 in 2009
Rape	1	1 in 2008	1	1 in 2008

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners granted early release have been convicted of (1) dangerous offences in the last 12 months; [290108]

(2) violent offences in the last 12 months. [290109]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice records the number of alleged offences while on early custody licence (ECL) and has recently released figures of offenders who reoffended while on home detention custody (HDC).

Data on ECL releases, recalls and alleged re-offending are published every month on the following website.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

During the period 29 June 2007 (the start of the scheme) to 31 August 2009 (the latest data available), 67,380 prisoners were released on ECL of which 1,026 offenders have been notified to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) as alleged to have committed a further offence while on the scheme. The total number of alleged further offences committed by these prisoners during their period of ECL is 1,363. Within this, 284 were alleged violent offences, seven alleged sexual offences and 36 were alleged to have committed robbery.

The latest figures on reoffending while on home detention curfew were released by this Department in my written ministerial statement on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 142-44WS. This shows that 11,316 offenders were released on HDC during 2007-08. Of these PNC data identified that 60 offences of violence against the person, one sexual offence and seven robberies were committed while on HDC.

Prisoners Release: Terrorism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people convicted of terrorist offences and sentenced to more than 12 months' imprisonment have been released early from prison since 2001; [290110]

(2) how many people convicted of terrorism offences in the UK since 2001 have been released early from prison; [290111]

(3) how many members of the prison population have been convicted of terrorism offences in each year since 2001; [290112]

(4) how many people convicted of terrorism offences in the UK have been released to bail hostels accommodation since 2001. [290113]

Mr. Straw: Eligible prisoners may be released earlier than the halfway point of their sentence under the Home Detention Curfew (HDC) or End of Custody Licence (ECL) schemes. Foreign national prisoners who are to be deported may also be liable for early removal under the Early Removal Scheme (ERS).

Prisoners serving sentences for any offence under terrorism legislation have been presumed unsuitable for release on HDC since 4 April 2008 and excluded from release on ECL since 28 March 2008. It has also been decided that, with effect from 16 October 2008, early removal under ERS should not be granted to prisoners convicted under terrorism legislation offences.

Prior to those decisions being taken, three prisoners convicted of terrorism offences were released on the HDC scheme: two in 2003 and one in 2007. All were serving sentences of 12 months or more.

Two prisoners were released on ECL during 2008 whilst serving sentences for terrorism offences: one in January 2008 and one in February 2008. One of those prisoners was serving a sentence of 12 months or more.

No prisoners serving sentences for terrorism offences have been removed early under the ERS scheme.

Information regarding the number of individuals convicted of terrorism or terrorism related offences can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes which was published for the first time on 13 May 2009 and is available on the Home Office website. This bulletin is intended to be the first in a regular series of publications which will help improve the quality of data publicly available on terrorism arrests and their outcomes.

Data about offenders released into approved premises (formerly known as bail/probation hostels) have been collected centrally only since April 2004, from information supplied by individual approved premises. The data collected do not include offence details and no other centrally held information includes details of the numbers of terrorist offenders released to approved premises dating back to 2001. Tracking this information down would have to be done on a case-by-case basis and as such would prove disproportionately expensive. However, since September 2008 information on the release details of individuals convicted of terrorism or terrorism related offences has been held centrally and 11 terrorist offenders have been released to approved premises since then.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders convicted of terrorism offences are housed in approved premises in England and Wales. [290334]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service does not hold centrally details on offenders by offence type currently being housed in approved premises.

Where merited by the circumstances of the case, offenders can be required upon release to reside in approved premises, to allow for a period of enhanced supervision, contributing to protecting the public and assisting in their managed reintegration into society. As of 31 July 2009, 14 offenders convicted of terrorism or terrorist-related offences have been released initially to approved premises, although of these, some will subsequently have been moved on to other risk-assessed ac[illegible]tion.

Prisoners: Compensation

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much compensation was paid to prisoners at each prison in each of the last five years; and what the reason was in each case. [288630]

Claire Ward: The information requested for the last available four financial years is detailed in several spreadsheets which will be placed in the Library of the House. The figures relate to compensation paid in respect of civil litigation claims only.

Prisoners: Epilepsy

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what information is given to people with epilepsy on the care they will receive on their entry to *(a)* a prison and *(b)* a young offender institution; [289951]

(2) how many people diagnosed with epilepsy died in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions in each of the last five years; [289990]

(3) on how many occasions emergency medical care has been requested to treat people with epilepsy suffering a seizure in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions in each of the last five years; [289991]

(4) how many people diagnosed with epilepsy were allocated to a single cell in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions in each of the last five years; [289992]

(5) how many people diagnosed with epilepsy entered status epilepticus while held in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions in each of the last five years. [289993]

Maria Eagle: Offenders are now all screened on arrival in prison by a trained nurse or trained officer to find out what their health needs are and get them the right treatment.

The Department of Health and the Prison Reform Trust have recently published two new information books for prisoners with a disability. The first book is a short, easy-read version for prisoners with learning disabilities, the second book contains more in depth detail for prisoners on their health, daily life, and how to get help in prison and on release this includes information on epilepsy.

Epilepsy action has produced information giving clear, straightforward information about epilepsy, relevant for staff supervising prisoners with epilepsy and for prisoners. This is available online at:

www.epilepsy.org.uk

The online printable information includes:

Epilepsy facts and important things to know about anti-epileptic drugs

Cell and bunk allocation

Safety

Risk of dying from epilepsy and sudden unexpected death in epilepsy

Employment and safety at work

Types of seizures (fits) and non-epileptic attack disorder

Myths and misunderstandings—information for prison staff

The Department of Health will shortly be writing to all prison and young offender institution heads of health care about the NICE guidelines on epilepsy and the Epilepsy Action information booklets.

There is no information held centrally on the number of offenders diagnosed with epilepsy who died in prisons and young offender institutions, on how many occasions emergency medical care has been requested to treat people with epilepsy having a seizure in prisons and young offender institutions, how many people diagnosed with epilepsy were allocated to a single cell in prisons and young offender institutions and how many people diagnosed with epilepsy entered status epilepticus while held in prisons and young offender institutions in each of the last five years.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to staff in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions on the effect of restraint techniques on people affected by seizures. [289952]

Maria Eagle: Control and restraint (C&R) is a system of techniques used within both prisons and young offender institutions in order to bring a violent or non-compliant prisoner under control. C&R is only applied in circumstances where it is necessary to do so and any force used is applied for as short a time as possible and only in proportion to the violence shown by the prisoner. Staff are instructed to avoid use of force wherever possible and instead to use persuasion or negotiation to end such incidents, however, this is not always possible.

All staff in prisons and young offender institutions who employ C&R techniques are trained in their use and undergo annual refresher training. This training includes recognition of the signs and symptoms that may indicate that a prisoner is in medical distress. Guidance on medical warning signs is also included in prison service order (PSO) 1600 "Use of Force[1]".

A member of health care must, wherever reasonably practicable, attend every incident where staff are deployed to restrain violent or disturbed prisoners. Health care staff are authorised to terminate any use of force in the event of a medical emergency.

[1] Available at:

http://pso.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/pso1600/default.htm

Prisoners: Females

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women in each age group were received into prison under sentence in each of the last 10 years. [291726]

Claire Ward: The table shows the numbers of female prisoners that were received under sentence in all prison establishments in England and Wales in each year since 1998, by age band.

Number of persons

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All ages	5,849	6,816	7,006	7,231	7,720	7,993	8,264	8,024	7,698	8,056	8,862
15-17	302	354	304	305	346	189	186	204	164	191	176
18-20	769	879	932	965	986	916	840	874	849	888	965
21-24	1,113	1,368	1,450	1,520	1,667	1,781	1,674	1,502	1,375	1,326	1,444
25-29	1,311	1,516	1,477	1,606	1,694	1,786	1,825	1,695	1,596	1,720	1,907
30-39	1,618	1,909	2,041	2,042	2,157	2,352	2,519	2,422	2,403	2,485	2,683
40-49	582	584	602	605	725	773	986	1,072	1,043	1,135	1,319
50-59	135	184	166	162	122	173	200	214	216	258	313
60 and over	19	22	34	26	23	23	34	41	52	53	55

Note:

Excludes police cells

This information is taken from table 6.6 in the recently published Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library, and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Foreigners

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian nationals are serving sentences in UK prisons. [291831]

Claire Ward: At the end of June 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 180 Romanian and 36 Bulgarian nationals serving sentences in all prison establishments in England and Wales. Statistics relating to the numbers held in Scottish and Northern Irish prisons are the responsibility of the Scottish Government and the Northern Irish Prison Service respectively.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Learning Disability

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners diagnosed with a learning disability have been transferred from prison to secure units in each strategic health authority region in each of the last five years. [290242]

Claire Ward: Information is not available in the form requested. However, information is available on the number of prisoners with a diagnosis of 'mental impairment' or 'severe mental impairment' within the terms of the Mental Health Act 1983 who have been transferred from prison to a secure hospital unit in England and Wales in the last five years. Individuals in these categories will almost invariably have a learning disability. The figures are shown in the following table. A breakdown by strategic health authority is not available.

	Number transferred
2004	33
2005	47
2006	55
2007	49
2008	49

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners with mental illnesses have been transferred from prison to hospital *(a)* six months, *(b)* one month and *(c)* a week before their release date in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [290013]

Claire Ward: The information requested is shown in the table. The number of transferred prisoners includes both restricted and unrestricted patients, and includes prisoners suffering from all the categories of mental disorder defined in the Mental Health Act 1983 before its amendment with effect from 3 November 2008.

	Total number of transfers to hospital involving sentenced prisoners	*(a) Six months*		*(b) One month*		*(c) One week*		*Period unknown*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2004	405	155	38.3	102	25.2	72	17.8	15	3.7
2005	414	181	43.7	119	28.7	82	19.8	7	1.7
2006	488	208	42.6	121	24.8	77	15.8	14	2.9
2007	455	202	44.4	116	25.5	82	18.0	1	0.2
2008	508	206	40.6	119	23.4	79	15.6	2	0.4

Many of the prisoners who were transferred within one month or one week of their release date were serving short sentences of less than six months. The Secretary of State will only authorise a transfer very close to the end of sentence where he is satisfied on the basis of medical advice that it is justified by the prisoner's medical condition.

Prisoners: Mobile Phones

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mobile telephones were found in the possession of prisoners in *(a)* top security and *(b)* all other prisons in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [287998]

Maria Eagle: Prisons in England and Wales are asked to send mobile phones and SIM cards they find to a central unit for analysis. In the last 12 months (from July 2008-June 2009), 8,648 mobile phones and SIM cards were analysed. 255 were from the high security estate and 8,393 were from the non-high security estate. These figures include items discovered within prison perimeters and on entry to establishments. We do not keep central records of mobile phones found in the possession of prisoners.

We believe that these figures may understate the actual number of finds, because they do not include items retained by the police for evidential purposes, and because in some instances prisons have not sent items for analysis. NOMS is putting in place new procedures to ensure that we have a more comprehensive picture in future. While the numbers of phones found indicates the scale of the challenge in tackling illicit mobile phones, it is also a reflection of prisons' increasing success in finding them and better reporting.

NOMS is implementing a strategy to minimise the number of phones entering prisons, and to find or disrupt those that do enter. As part of the strategy, prisons have been provided with technologies to strengthen local security and searching strategies, in line with the recommendations in the Blakey report, "Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons", published in July 2008. This includes the roll out of "BOSS" chairs to all prisons, and the deployment of other detection and disruption technologies, including mobile phone signal blockers.

We have also strengthened the law, through the Offender Management Act 2007 (implemented in April 2008), which makes it a criminal offence with a punishment of up to two years' imprisonment to bring an unauthorised mobile phone or component part into a prison.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the estimated *(a)* total capital construction cost excluding operation and maintenance and *(b)* capital construction cost per prison place per year of lifespan excluding operation and maintenance is of each of the two planned 1,500 place prisons announced by his Department on 27 April 2009, should the prisons be delivered under similar contractual arrangements to current PFI prisons; [292392]

(2) how many new prison places have been brought on stream in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available; and what the estimated capital construction cost was per prison place per year of lifespan, excluding operation, maintenance and other costs. [292395]

Mr. Straw: The framework approach used by the Prison Service for the new 1,500 place prisons is designed to introduce real competition into the procurement process for each prison, and the construction and operating costs are a key part of our commercial strategy to ensure value for money. It is therefore not possible to reveal the estimated costs at this stage of the procurement.

The Core Capacity Programme aims to deliver approximately 12,500 places by 2012. The following table shows the number of places delivered in each month since October 2007 as part of this programme:

	Number of places[1]
October 2007	0
November 2007	366
December 2007	60
January 2008	60
February 2008	100
March 2008	642
April 2008	240
May 2008	395
June 2008	240
July 2008	0
August 2008	102
September 2008	449
October 2008	132
November 2008	269
December 2008	106
January 2009	190
February 2009	92
March 2009	82
April 2009	29
May 2009	212
June 2009	29
July 2009	34
August 2009	41
September 2009	400
October 2009	0

[1] Includes places delivered through new build accommodation, conversion of existing buildings and more effective use of the estate.

The average construction cost for the Core Capacity Programme (not all new build), including costs of providing ancillary facilities, and excluding running costs, is approximately £170,000 per place across the lifetime of the accommodation.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to his Department was of *(a)* all mandatory drug testing in prisons in England and Wales in 2008-09 and *(b)* one mandatory drug test of an individual prisoner on the latest date for which figures are available. [290290]

Maria Eagle: Many staff responsible for the mandatory drug testing (MDT) process do not work exclusively on the testing of prisoners. The cost of MDT staff resources cannot be disaggregated from the overall prison running costs.

The cost to the National Offender Management Service of MDT analytical services is classified as commercial in confidence.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the street value of all drugs used illegally in each *(a)* adult prison and *(b)* young offender institution in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [292394]

Maria Eagle: Information on the street value of drugs used illegally in prisons is not routinely available. Covert activity such as drug taking, by its nature, is very difficult to quantify. A report published in 2001 by the Home Office titled 'Sizing the UK market for illicit drugs' focused on a few specific drugs and estimated the value of the drugs trade in prisons as worth up to £24 million. Since that report, the level of drug misuse evidenced by the random drug testing positive rate has fallen by 36 per cent.

Prisons: Energy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what energy efficiency standards his Department has stipulated for circulator pumps installed in *(a)* existing and *(b)* new prisons. [291790]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not stipulate energy efficiency standards for circulator pumps. However, in existing Prison Service buildings, it is recommended that variable speed pump motors are fitted where it is practical to do so and where savings can be made within a suitable payback period.

NOMS standard for new build and refurbishment projects is that:

> Accommodation will deliver optimum energy efficient solutions to achieve a low energy building that is significantly lower than typical development.
>
> New builds must meet current Buildings Regulations Part L (2000) which include energy conservation requirements.

Prisons: Manpower

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers and *(c)* executive support and administration staff there were in each prison in each of the last five years. [287871]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers and *(c)* executive support and administration staff in each prison over the last five years is shown in the following tables. The data provided cover the public sector and the contracted estate. Grading systems vary between the public and private sectors, and between individual contractors. Self reporting has been used in this response.

Staff in post for selected grades by establishment 2004-05 to 2008-09

	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
Name	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*
Acklington	49	2	—	48	2	—	47	2	—
Albany	37	2	—	44	2	—	45	1	—
Altcourse (Private Prison)	45	7	1	47	7	1	51	7	1
Ashfield (Private Prison)					Data not supplied				
Ashwell	46	1	—	47	2	—	48	1	—
Askham Grange	18	1	—	20	1	—	19	1	—
Aylesbury	38	2	—	39	2	—	38	2	—
Bedford	41	1	—	41	1	—	42	2	—
Belmarsh	63	3	—	61	2	—	72	2	—
Birmingham	71	4	—	73	4	—	72	4	—
Blantyre House	9	1	—	8	1	—	11	1	—
Blundeston	35	1	—	35	1	—	32	1	—
Brinsford	49	2	—	51	2	—	44	2	—
Bristol	44	3	—	44	3	—	39	3	—
Brixton	50	4	—	45	4	—	38	6	—
Bronzefield (Private Prison)[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buckley Hall	33	1	—	32	2	—	31	2	—
Bullingdon	68	5	—	70	3	—	75	3	—
Bullwood Hall	30	2	—	27	1	—	20	1	—
Camp Hill	39	1	—	37	2	—	40	2	—
Canterbury	20	1	—	18	1	—	17	1	—
Cardiff	51	3	—	46	3	—	41	2	—
Castington	41	3	—	43	3	—	44	4	—
Channings Wood	43	2	—	46	2	—	39	4	—
Chelmsford	49	1	—	46	1	—	54	1	—
Coldingley	24	2	—	22	2	—	23	2	—
Coltishall					Operational in 2009				
Cookham Wood	18	1	—	22	1	—	21	1	—
Dartmoor	47	1	—	45	1	—	43	1	—
Deerbolt	40	2	—	48	2	—	46	2	—
Doncaster (Private Prison)					Data not supplied				
Dorchester	25	2	—	27	2	—	26	1	—
Doncaster (Private Prison)					Data not supplied				
Dover	16	1	—	17	1	—	16	2	—
Downview	36	—	1	36	1	—	33	1	1
Drake Hall	27	1	—	31	1	—	27	1	—
Durham	66	1	—	63	2	—	61	1	—
East Sutton Park	11	3	—	7	1	—	8	1	—
Eastwood Park	34	1	—	34	1	—	40	1	—
Edmunds Hill	21	1	—	30	1	—	31	1	—
Elmley	56	2	—	55	2	—	21	1	—
Erlestoke	41		—	41	1	—	32	1	—
Everthorpe	42	1	—	39	1	—	46	1	—
Exeter	46	2	—	50	1	—	42	1	—
Featherstone	47	1	—	44	1	—	43		—
Feltham	78	7	—	81	7	—	79	4	—
Ford	37	2	—	30	1	—	30	1	—
Forest Bank (Private Prison)[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foston Hall	28	1	—	30	1	—	31	1	—
Frankland	67	6	—	67	5	—	68	6	—
Full Sutton	42	4	—	39	3	—	41	2	—
Garth	52	4	—	48	3	—	47	3	—
Gartree	29	4	—	43	4	—	52	4	—
Glen Parva	66	2	—	64	1	—	39	2	—
Gloucester	35	1	—	34	1	—	34	1	—
Grendon	46	10	—	45	9	—	43	10	—
Guys Marsh	38	2	—	38	1	—	37	1	—

Staff in post for selected grades by establishment 2004-05 to 2008-09

	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
Name	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*
Haslar	11	1	—	9	1	—	10	1	—
Haverigg	45	1	—	45	2	—	45	3	—
Hewell	105	5	—	105	5	—	110	5	—
High Down	54	2	1	50	1	2	52	1	1
Highpoint	53	3	—	56	4	—	56	2	—
Hindley	57	5	—	54	4	—	53	4	—
Hollesley Bay	15	1	—	20	1	—	22	1	—
Holloway	40	4	—	46	6	—	47	4	—
Holme House	64	2	—	61	2	—	61	3	—
Hull	68	3	—	60	2	—	65	2	—
Huntercombe	29	2	—	31	2	—	26	3	—
Isle of Wight Cluster	Operational in 2009								
Kennet	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Kingston	19	1	—	20	1	—	18	—	—
Kirkham	48	1	—	49	1	—	38	2	—
Kirklevington Grange	23	1	—	24	1	—	22	1	—
Lancaster	31	1	—	29	1	—	28	1	—
Lancaster Farms	60	3	—	58	3	—	52	2	—
Latchmere House	11	1	—	11	1	—	12	1	—
Leeds	75	2	—	67	3	—	72	4	—
Leicester	33	1	—	38	2	—	37	1	—
Lewes	45	1	—	45	1	—	39	1	—
Leyhill	48	3	—	48	2	—	46	2	—
Lincoln	45	1	—	54	2	—	53	1	—
Lindholme	62	2	—	66	2	—	78	2	—
Littlehey	43	1	—	39	1	—	34	1	—
Liverpool	58	6	—	59	4	—	59	4	—
Long Lartin	51	4	—	43	4	—	55	6	—
Lowdham Grange (Private Prison)	Data not supplied								
Low Newton	32	2	—	35	2	—	35	2	—
Maidstone	33	1	—	35	1	—	28	1	—
Manchester	60	5	—	64	4	—	67	5	—
Moorland	70	2	—	70	3	—	59	3	—
Morton Hall	28	2	—	27	1	—	28	1	—
New Hall	48	2	—	47	2	—	52	2	—
North Sea Camp	25	—	—	32	1	—	32	1	—
Northallerton	26	1	—	24	1	—	31	1	—
Norwich	56	2	—	57	3	—	56	3	—
Nottingham	46	2	—	54	1	—	49	1	—
Onley	55	2	—	59	2	—	65	2	—
Parkhurst	43	3	—	52	3	—	39	2	—
Pentonville	65	4	—	61	4	—	57	3	—
Peterborough (Private Prison)[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portland	45	3	—	44	3	—	43	2	—
Preston	62	2	—	63	2	—	65	2	—
Ranby	56	4	—	64	3	—	60	3	—
Reading	22	1	—	27	1	—	30	1	—
Risley	57	3	—	51	3	—	48	3	—
Rochester	30	2	—	30	2	—	29	2	—
Rye Hill (Private Prison)	41	6	1	46	8	1	44	8	1
Send	19	2	—	23	2	—	20	3	—
Shepton Mallet	25		—	21	1	—	23	1	—
Shrewsbury	33	1	—	29	1	—	28	1	—
Stafford	44	2	—	48	2	—	42	2	—
Standford Hill	43	1	—	43	4	—	10	1	—
Stocken	50	1	—	50	1	—	52	1	—
Stoke Heath	47	4	—	55	2	—	55	3	—
Styal	46	3	—	44	3	—	39	2	—

Staff in post for selected grades by establishment 2004-05 to 2008-09

Name	*2004-05*			*2005-06*			*2006-07*		
	Admin and Executive Support	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/ Senior Civil Servant*
Sudbury	42	1	—	43	1	—	40	2	—
Swaleside	59	3	—	56	2	—	25	1	—
Swansea	37	1	—	40	1	—	42	1	—
Swinfen Hall	40	2	—	47	2	—	38	2	—
The Mount	50	4	—	47	2	—	46	3	—
The Verne	36	1	—	41	1	—	36	1	—
Thorn Cross	36	3	—	36	3	—	38	2	—
Usk/Prescoed	33	2	—	35	1	—	30	1	—
Wakefield	50	4	—	48	4	—	56	4	—
Wandsworth	65	5	—	60	3	—	67	5	—
Warren Hill	39	1	—	45	1	—	43	1	—
Wayland	41	1	—	41	1	—	38	1	—
Wealstun	60	2	—	52	2	—	36	2	—
Weare	34	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	42	1	—	56	1	—	53	1	—
Werrington	26	2	—	28	2	—	28	2	—
Wetherby	31	2	—	33	2	—	32	3	—
Whatton	35	2	—	49	3	—	57	3	—
Whitemoor	68	4	—	66	4	—	75	5	—
Winchester	55	1	—	54	3	—	52	2	—
Wolds (Private Prison)	7	5	1	8	5	1	8	5	1
Woodhill	49	5	—	53	5	—	62	5	—
Wormwood Scrubs	99	3	—	66	2	—	65	5	—
Wymott	99	3	—	60	2	—	57	3	—

Name	*2007-08*			*2008-09*		
	Admin and Executive Support	*Senior Managers*	*Director/Senior Civil Servant*	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/Senior Civil Servant*
Acklington	47	1	—	54	2	—
Albany	46	2	—	22	1	—
Altcourse (Private Prison)	51	8	1	56	8	1
Ashfield (Private Prison)			Data not supplied			
Ashwell	39	1	—	50	1	—
Askham Grange	18	2	—	17	2	—
Aylesbury	36	2	—	35	2	—
Bedford	37	2	—	40	1	—
Belmarsh	72	3	—	72	4	—
Birmingham	72	3	—	72	4	—
Blantyre House	10	1	—	9	1	—
Blundeston	29	2	—	33	2	—
Brinsford	45	2	—	43	2	—
Bristol	35	3	—	37	3	—
Brixton	37	5	—	39	6	—
Bronzefield (Private Prison)[1]	—	—	—	41	9	1
Buckley Hall	29	1	—	29	2	—
Bullingdon	68	3	—	67	4	—
Bullwood Hall	20	2	—	23	2	—
Camp Hill	32	1	—	23	1	—
Canterbury	18	1	—	19	1	—
Cardiff	40	2	—	45	2	—
Castington	33	3	—	34	3	—
Channings Wood	47	4	—	47	3	—
Chelmsford	51	2	—	43	1	—
Coldingley	23	2	—	28	2	—
Coltishall		Operational in 2009		4	1	—
Cookham Wood	23	1	—	30	1	—
Dartmoor	46	1	—	45	3	—
Deerbolt	47	1	—	46	1	—

Name	2007-08			2008-09		
	Admin and Executive Support	Senior Managers	Director/Senior Civil Servant	Admin and Executive Support	Senior Managers	Director/Senior Civil Servant
Doncaster (Private Prison)	Data not supplied					
Dorchester	28	2	—	26	3	—
Dovegate (Private Prison)	Data not supplied					
Dover	13	1	—	15	1	—
Downview	25	1	—	27	1	—
Drake Hall	26	1	—	29	1	—
Durham	71	3	—	73	2	—
East Sutton Park	9	1	—	12	1	—
Eastwood Park	39	1	—	41	1	—
Edmunds Hill	26	1	—	28	1	—
Elmley			—	18	1	—
Erlestoke	33	1	—	32	1	—
Everthorpe	46	2	—	47	1	—
Exeter	38	2	—	38	1	—
Featherstone	45	1	—	45	1	—
Feltham	64	3	—	68	6	—
Ford	25	1	—	32	1	—
Forest Bank (Private Prison)[7]	—	—	—	51	7	1
Foston Hall	34	2	—	34	2	—
Frankland	73	8	—	69	9	—
Full Sutton	40	4	—	46	4	—
Garth	43	3	—	44	3	—
Gartree	50	4	—	57	4	—
Glen Parva	50	1	—	48	2	—
Gloucester	33	1	—	32	1	—
Grendon	52	11	—	50	10	—
Guys Marsh	46	1	—	31	1	—
Haslar	9	1	—	8	1	—
Haverigg	44	2	—	43	4	—
Hewell	98	5	—	88	4	—
High Down	60	2	1	58	2	1
Highpoint	53	3	—	60	1	—
Hindley	41	3	—	43	3	—
Hollesley Bay	25	1	—	26	1	—
Holloway	49	3	—	47	3	—
Holme House	60	3	—	61	4	—
Hull	60	3	—	58	4	—
Huntercombe	27	2	—	28	2	—
Isle of Wight Cluster	Operational in 2009			29	1	—
Kennet	33	2	—	37	1	—
Kingston	19	1	—	18	1	—
Kirkham	44	1	—	46	1	—
Kirklevington Grange	19	1	—	24	1	—
Lancaster	31	1	—	30	1	—
Lancaster Farms	40	3	—	47	3	—
Latchmere House	15		—	13		—
Leeds	64	3	—	66	1	—
Leicester	29	1	—	31	1	—
Lewes	36	2	—	47	1	—
Leyhill	45	3	—	38	3	—
Lincoln	46	1	—	45	2	—
Lindholme	76	2	—	74	4	—
Littlehey	33	1	—	39	3	—
Liverpool	56	4	—	52	4	—
Long Lartin	49	4	—	51	5	—
Lowdham Grange (Private Prison)	Data not supplied					
Low Newton	33	2	—	32	2	—
Maidstone	31	1	—	35	1	—
Manchester	63	5	—	67	6	—

	2007-08			2008-09		
Name	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/Senior Civil Servant*	*Admin and Executive Support*	*Senior Managers*	*Director/Senior Civil Servant*
Moorland	61	3	—	61	3	—
Morton Hall	24	1	—	25	1	—
New Hall	46	3	—	52	2	—
North Sea Camp	34	1	—	32	1	—
Northallerton	27	1	—	30	1	—
Norwich	51	1	—	48	2	—
Nottingham	48	1	—	47	2	—
Onley	48	2	—	56	2	—
Parkhurst	48	3		31	2	
Pentonville	38	2		52	4	
Peterborough (Private Prison)[1]	—	—	—	47	8	1
Portland	43	2	—	44	2	—
Preston	58	3	—	62	2	—
Ranby	61	3	—	63	3	—
Reading	25	1	—	24	1	—
Risley	52	5	—	54	4	—
Rochester	29	2	—	53	2	—
Rye Hill (Private Prison)	61	8	1	57	9	1
Send	21	2	1	25	2	—
Shepton Mallet	22	1	—	25	1	—
Shrewsbury	29	1	—	29	1	—
Stafford	49	2	—	54	3	—
Standford Hill	1		—	8	1	—
Stocken	55	1	—	56	1	—
Stoke Heath	51	3	—	50	3	—
Styal	36	3	—	41	3	—
Sudbury	40	2	—	38	2	—
Swaleside	—	—	—	27	1	—
Swansea	33	1	—	30	1	—
Swinfen Hall	41	2	—	38	2	—
The Mount	49	2	—	51	3	—
The Verne	39	1	—	39	1	—
Thorn Cross	32	2	—	33	2	—
Usk/Prescoed	29	2	—	26	2	—
Wakefield	56	3	—	60	4	—
Wandsworth	59	4	—	73	5	—
Warren Hill	34	1	—	29	1	—
Wayland	36	1	—	46	1	—
Wealstun	60	2	—	52	2	—
Weare	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellingborough	47	1	—	50	1	—
Werrington	24	2	—	24	2	—
Wetherby	36	2	—	34	3	—
Whatton	64	3	—	68	4	—
Whitemoor	68	6	—	76	6	—
Winchester	47	2	—	44	3	—
Wolds (Private Prison)	7	5	1	8	5	1
Woodhill	63	5	—	69	4	—
Wormwood Scrubs	52	5	—	54	5	—
Wymott	63	4	—	61	3	—

[1] Figures prior to 2009 not available.

Notes:

1. Headcount (part-timers count as one).

2. There are typically no senior civil servants based within public sector establishments. Governing governors, who have the chief responsibility for the establishment, are allocated in senior management grades (A-D). However, for some private prisons there is a specific director role and therefore the figures reflect this job title.

PQ Grade NOMS Grade
Directors Senior Civil Servants
Senior Managers Senior Managers (A-D)
Executive Support and Administration Staff AA, AO, EO, Typists and Personal Secretaries

Source:
Oracle HRMS and Personnel Management System

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers have been charged with aiding and abetting, counselling or procuring misconduct in a public office in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [290774]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is not collated and held centrally in any format that would enable the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to answer the specific questions that have been asked.

Staff in NOMS are expected to meet high standards of professional and personal conduct. They have, therefore, a responsibility to notify their Governor or Head of Group if they are charged with any criminal offence. Information on the numbers of prison officers charged with offences covered by misconduct in public office could only be obtained by contacting all NOMS establishments and asking them to provide any information they hold locally in this respect. This would incur disproportionate cost. We are, however, taking steps to record more detailed information in this area.

Prisons: Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were detected attempting to break into a prison in 2008-09. [291254]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of incidents recorded on the Prison Service Incident Reporting System where people attempted to gain access to a prison without authority during that period. The majority of these incidents involved members of the public trespassing on the grounds of open prisons where, by the very nature of the establishments, access is more difficult to control. There have been no recorded incidents of people gaining access to the interior of a closed prison within this period.

Breakdown of incidents involving people attempting to gain access to a prison without authority

Prison type	*Individuals involved*	*Total incidents*
Closed	5	3
Open	8	5

Notes:
1. Three individuals were found leaving a prison staff locker room area located outside the main prison. Police were called but the three individuals had left the area.
2. Individual discovered on camera trying to climb the fence. Police were called but the individual had left the area.
3. Individual tried unsuccessfully to gain unauthorised entry into the main gate of an establishment.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Probation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the proportion of probation officer time spent on front line work with offenders in each year since 1997. [290289]

Maria Eagle: This information is not held centrally by the National Offender Management Service, nor is it held at probation area or trust level.

Probation Officers

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation officers in each probation service area have been qualified for more than three years. [290288]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to say how long each probation officer has been qualified as this information is not collected centrally and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average offender caseload a probation officer supervises; and what is the maximum number of offenders an officer may supervise. [290335]

Maria Eagle: Figures for 31 December 2008 show that the average caseload per probation officer across the 42 probation areas in England and Wales ranged from 18 to 54 cases. There is no specified maximum number of offenders that an officer may supervise.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the number of probation officers there are per head of population in each probation service area. [291653]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only by contacting each probation area at a disproportionate cost.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of probation officers to offenders was in each probation service area on the latest date for which figures are available. [291654]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the ratio of offenders to probation officers[1] in each probation area on 30 September 2008; the last date for which corresponding staffing and offender information is currently available.

[1] Includes: Senior Probation Officers, Senior Practitioners, Probation Officers, Trainee Probation Officers, Practice Development Assessors, Probation Service Officers and Treatment Managers.

Probation area/trust	*Ratio*
Avon and Somerset	14.7:1
Bedfordshire	17.6:1
Cambridgeshire	18.0:1
Cheshire	15.5:1
Cumbria	19.6:1
Derbyshire	14.5:1
Devon and Cornwall	21.4:1
Dorset	13.4:1
County Durham	13.4:1
Essex	19.8:1
Gloucestershire	20.4:1
Greater Manchester	20.4:1
Hampshire	16.5:1
Hertfordshire	18.5:1
Humberside	14.2:1
Kent	19.4:1
Lancashire	20.4:1
Leicestershire and Rutland	10.5:1

Probation area/trust	*Ratio*
Lincolnshire	13.1:1
London	22.0:1
Merseyside	19.0:1
Norfolk	10.6:1
Northumbria	15.1:1
Northamptonshire	17.1:1
Nottinghamshire	17.8:1
Staffordshire	16.7:1
Suffolk	12.3:1
Surrey	11.0:1
Sussex	19.0:1
Teesside	16.2:1
Thames Valley	14.1:1
Warwickshire	17.0:1
West Mercia	15.1:1
West Midlands	20.8:1
Wiltshire	15.0:1
North Yorkshire	13.6:1
South Yorkshire	15.0:1
West Yorkshire	16.6:1
Dyfed Powys	13.1:1
Gwent	16.8:1
North Wales	20.8:1
South Wales	17.0:1

The ratio nationally of offenders to probation officers is 17.5:1.

Probation Officers: Manpower

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* trainee and *(b)* qualified probation officers have been employed by the Probation Service in each year since 1997. [290144]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the numbers of trainee probation officers and qualified probation officers on 31 December in each year since 1997[1].

	Trainee probation officers	*Qualified probation officers*[1]
1997	—	6,155
1998	229	6,012
1999	523	6,027
2000	564	6,029
2001	1,096	6,038
2002	1,566	5,966
2003	1,908	6,103
2004	1,774	6,586
2005	1,387	6,894
2006	1,134	7,210
2007	1,138	7,120

[1] Figures include senior practitioners, senior probation officers, probation officers and practice development assessors.

Note:

Figures are shown as full time equivalents.

Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.

Probation Officers: Training

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent from the public purse on training probation officers in 2008-09. [290337]

Maria Eagle: In the financial year 2008-09, £41.772 million was allocated to trainee probation officer (TPO) training.

Probation: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of *(a)* male to female offenders and *(b)* male to female probation staff in each age range in the Essex probation area was in the latest period for which figures are available. [287500]

Maria Eagle: The information in the following tables shows the ratio of male to female offenders in each age range and the total male to female staff in each age range in the Essex probation area. There is a higher proportion of male to female offenders and a higher proportion of female to male staff. This has been fairly consistent in recent years.

Table 1: Male to female ratio of offenders in the Essex probation area in each age range

Ratio of offenders by gender, for each age range	*Male : Female*
Under 20	7.7 : 1
20 to 29	6.9: 1
30 to 39	5.8: 1
40 to 49	5.5: 1
50 to 59	7.0: 1
60 to 69	18.7: 1
70 and over	27.0 : 1

Table 2: The total male to female staff in each age range in the Essex probation area

Ratio of overall staff by gender, for age range	*Male : Female*
Under 20	1 : 1
20 to 29	1 : 5
30 to 39	1 : 3.4
40 to 49	1 : 1.7
50 to 59	1 : 1.9
60 to 69	1 : 1
70 and over	1 : 1

Probation: Greater London

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation officers in each London borough have been qualified for more than three years. [290331]

Maria Eagle: Probation officers employed by London Probation in London boroughs with three years plus experience is shown in the following table.

Borough	*Total probation officers*	*Total three years plus experience*	*Percentage three years plus experience*
Barking, Dagenham, Havering	27	17	63
Barnet, Enfield	36	31	86
Brent	24	18	75
Camden, Islington	42	29	69
Ealing	22	12	55
Hackney	24	18	75
Haringey	25	15	60

Borough	*Total probation officers*	*Total three years plus experience*	*Percentage three years plus experience*
Harrow, Hillingdon	31	23	74
Newham	34	25	74
Redbridge, Waltham Forest	33	25	76
Tower Hamlets	25	13	52
Bexley, Bromley	27	20	74
Croydon	32	17	53
Greenwich, Lewisham	53	29	55
Hounslow	23	16	70
Hammersmith, Fulham	22	9	41
Kensington, Chelsea, Westminster	29	21	72
Kingston, Richmond	17	12	71
Lambeth,	38	22	58
Merton, Sutton	22	12	55
Southwark	39	20	51
Wandsworth	21	17	81

Note.

In some areas of London; London Probation manage the boroughs on a joint basis and staff are expected to see offenders from both boroughs. In these areas the data cannot be broken down further.

Probation: Hertfordshire

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effect on national standards and service delivery of proposed reductions in the number of jobs in the Probation Service in Hertfordshire Probation Area. [289341]

Maria Eagle: Hertfordshire probation area has carried out a detailed assessment and analysis of its services for 2009-13 to determine how service delivery and compliance with national standards can be sustained in a scenario where the economic downturn resulted in a challenging financial settlement for Hertfordshire probation. The Four Year Strategic Business Plan 2009-13 addresses the potential impact on work force and service delivery demand and the six strategic priorities outline how the service intends to ensure that services continue to be delivered and developed. The Four Year Strategic Business Plan and supporting planning documents form the cornerstone of Hertfordshire probation board's trust application.

Both internal and external stakeholders have been consulted and contributed to the development of the Four Year Strategic Plan and Organisational Development Plan 2009-13, which has been made available on the area website.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed in Hertfordshire Probation Area on 31 March in each of the last five years. [289348]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Number

			31 March		
Hertfordshire	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Probation officers	59	62	52	61	60
Probation service officers[1]	54	72	81	86	86

[1] Community Service Officers are included within the PSO figures, these roles were assimilated into the PSO role during 2006-07.

The data provided for probation officers do not include trainee probation officers.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload of the Probation Service for Hertfordshire Probation Area was on 31 March in each of the last five years. [289349]

Maria Eagle: The total community and pre-release custodial offender caseload for Hertfordshire as at 31 March in each of the last five years was as follows:

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Supervised in community[1]	1,798	1,993	2,366	2,661	2,730
Supervised in custody	684	700	719	725	662

[1] Includes those supervised on court orders as well as post-release supervision.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders resident in Hertfordshire Probation Area were categorised as Tier 4 in each of the last five financial years. [289353]

Maria Eagle: The total number of offenders in Hertfordshire probation area who were categorised as Tier 4 (high risk) as at 31 March in each of the last three years are shown in the following table:

	Number
2006	291
2007	374
2008	298

Notes:

1. Information on tier prior to 1 April 2005 was not recorded.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation staff and *(b)* trainee probation officers he anticipates will be made redundant in Hertfordshire Probation Area in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) the next two financial years. [289354]

Maria Eagle: Hertfordshire probation area currently has served no notices of redundancy on probation staff for 2009-10.

Five trainee probation officers are anticipated to qualify on 31 October 2009. Hertfordshire probation area is currently assessing potential probation officer vacancies and is conducting an internal recruitment process. Any existing probation officer vacancies will be offered to the qualifying trainee probation officers in the first instance. Hertfordshire probation area is also anticipating an ability to offer some fixed term contracts, to enable the area to remain flexible to manage its resources. No notice of redundancy has been issued to the trainee probation officers due to qualify in 2009.

Four trainee probation officers are due to qualify on 31 October 2010. It is too early to provide an indication of potential redundancies in 2010-11 for trainee probation officers. The work force planning approach is to avoid redundancy and safeguard the skills the area has invested in wherever possible.

No budget decisions have been made for the 2010-11 financial year, or for subsequent years, and it is therefore not possible to produce accurate staffing projections for this period. In relation to their trust application Hertfordshire probation have consulted with stakeholders and a copy of their four year strategic/organisational development plan can be found on their website.

Probation: Prison Service

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what targets his Department has set for the *(a)* probation and *(b)* e for 2009-10. [290877]

Maria Eagle: The national targets that have been set for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency for 2009-10 are shown in the following table. In addition, there are more detailed targets in the service level agreements and contracts of public and private prison and probation providers against which performance is assessed.

Number	*Combined NOMS Agency Measures*	*Target 2009-10*
Probation	Reduce re-offending (PSA 23) - 10% reduction on 2005 levels by 2011	—
Prison	No Category A escapes	National 0
Prison	The rate of escapes from prison and prison escorts to be no more than 0.05% of the average prison population	National 0.05%
Prison	Fewer than 1 in 20,000 escapes from contractor escorts	National 1 in 20,000
Probation	70% of orders or licences successfully completed	Regional Minimum 70%
Prison	The rate of drug misuse in prisons is less than 9.3% as reflected by those testing positive in mandatory drug tests	9.3% (incl. bupre-norphine)
Probation	The proportion of accredited programme starts that meet the OGRS/Risk of Serious Harm eligibility criteria where relevant to be at least 80%	National 80%
Agency wide	The percentage of offenders in employment at termination of their sentence, order or licence to be at least 35% (PSA 16)	35%
Agency wide	The percentage of offenders in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their sentence, order or licence to be at least 79% (PSA 16)	79%
Prison	The rate of serious assaults is less than 1.9% of the prison population	1.9%
Prison	The percentage of prisoners held in overcrowded accommodation is less than 26% across the prison system	National <26%
Agency wide	Staff sickness does not exceed an average of 10.5 days per annum in public sector	National 10.5
Agency wide	Ethnic minority staff for the NOMS. Agency, expressed as a proportion of the workforce who have declared their ethnicity, is at least 8.5% by April 2010	National 8.5%

Probation: Terrorism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation officers on average have been assigned to the cases of each person convicted of terrorism offences in the UK in each year since 2001. [290104]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service does not hold centrally the details on the number of staff allocated by each probation area to individual cases. However, for offenders convicted of terrorism or terrorist-related offences, the Chief Officer or Chief Executive of Probation must ensure that the Offender Manager is suitably experienced and equipped to manage the case.

Public Interest Lawyers

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid in legal aid fees to *(a)* the solicitor Phil Shiner and *(b)* Public Interest Lawyers since 2001. [289810]

Mr. Wills: The Legal Services Commission's records of legal aid fees paid to Public Interest Lawyers since 2001, for the financial years requested (running from 1 April to 31 March) rounded to the nearest pound, are shown in the table. It should be noted that the fees paid could be for work done in previous years or for work covering more than one year.

The figures relate to civil legal aid work (the firm does not hold a crime contract). They have been calculated on the basis of net payments authorised.[1] All the figures listed are inclusive of VAT.

Financial year	*Total payment (£)*
2000-01	9,583
2001-02	32,561
2002-03	59,669
2003-04	139,621
2004-05	158,283
2005-06	251,844
2006-07	299,668
2007-08	490,972
2008-09	628,528
Total	2,070,728

[1] Net payments authorised is the value of main bills submitted during the year, less any previous payments on account, plus new payments on account made during the year on outstanding cases.

The LSC makes payments to firms rather than individuals so it is not possible to identify payments to Phil Shiner of Public Interest Lawyers separately.

Regional Offender Managers: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for each Director of Offender Management office in each English region and Wales is for *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [290323]

Maria Eagle: The office budget of each Director of Offender Management in England and Wales for 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

	(£)
London	2.018
Wales	1.662
Yorkshire	2.282
Eastern	2.662
South East	3.537
North West	3.135
West Midlands	2.397
North East	1.872
East Midlands	2.731
South West	2.135

The budgets for 2010-11 onwards have not yet been determined.

Regional Offender Managers: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were employed in each Director of Offender Management office on the latest date for which figures are available; and whether he plans to recruit further staff to each office. [290322]

Maria Eagle: The core regional structure has been developed to deliver offender management at regional level. The DOM structure has been designed to deliver the objectives of the organisation by placing resources at the front line to best meet community needs while ensuring the delivery of national standards and specifications.

The template is scaleable to match the size of each of the regions but the main structure is identical across the nine regions and Wales. A number of other posts may work under the DOM but are not shown in the regional structure as these receive funding from elsewhere.

The new regional offices opened as part of an organisational restructure in April 2009. We have been recruiting existing staff into the new posts via a job matching process; ring-fenced competition; and internal competition. An external recruitment process has been undertaken for a small number of specialist posts where no suitable internal candidates were found. Surpluses arising from the exercise are being managed robustly via the redeployment strategy. The overall staffing figure in the pre-existing Area and ROM offices prior to restructure was 576. On completion of the restructure, staffing in regional offices will be reduced by a total of 180 at an eventual saving of approximately £10 million.

The current position is shown in the following table.

Region	*Core regional structure (current state)*	*Core regional structure (authorised establishment figure)*
East Midlands	22	39
East of England	19	39
London	22	37
North East	25	32
North West	25	44
South East	31	59
South West	17	39
Wales	16	29
West Midlands	28	39
Yorkshire and Humberside	29	39
Total	233	396

There are no plans to recruit any further staff into each office once all the posts are filled.

Regional Offender Managers: Pay

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average salary to be paid to the directors of offender management in each English region and Wales in 2009. [290321]

Maria Eagle: Part of the restructuring of the National Offender Management Service is the appointment of 10 Directors of Offender Management, DOMs, one for each of the nine regions in England and one in Wales from April 1 2009.

The salary of the DOM is dependent on the size and complexities of the region. Seven on the DOMs are in the SCS pay band 1 which ranges from £78,585 to £102,388 and the remaining three are in SCS pay band 2 which has a salary range from £87,055 to £150,000.

Reoffenders

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reoffending rate for offenders resident in each police force area was in each year since 1997. [289393]

Claire Ward: The most recent reoffending rates are shown in the table. These data can be found in "Local Adult Reoffending 1 January 2008-31 December 2008 England and Wales" which was published 14 May 2009. This is available online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii.pdf

Further details on local adult reoffending are contained in this publication.

Local adult reoffending rates by probation area are not available for periods prior to 1 October 2007-30 September 2008.

The local reoffending figures are produced by aggregating the data of four snapshots of the probation case load at the end of each quarter. Therefore the number of offenders quoted in the table is approximately four times the number of offenders on the case load at any one time.

Probation areas are coterminous with police force areas except in the case of London probation, which covers both the Metropolitan and the City of London police forces.

Local reoffending rates by probation area, 1 January-31 December 2008

Probation area	*Cohort size (combining four quarters of probation case load data)*	*Actual rate of reoffending (percentage)*
Derbyshire	11,434	8.10
Leicestershire	11,256	7.94
Lincolnshire	5,818	10.36
Northamptonshire	7,415	8.23
Nottinghamshire	14,483	10.89
Bedfordshire	5,606	8.[illegible]6
Cambridgeshire	9,389	11.01
Essex	20,217	8.17
Hertfordshire	10,239	8.71
Norfolk	7,328	10.92
Suffolk	6,190	9.26
London	109,589	8.70
Durham	9,364	11.77
Northumbria	22,149	15.29
Teesside	11,720	15.33
Cheshire	11,248	8.66
Cumbria	6,655	12.70
Greater Manchester	46,970	10.00
Lancashire	22,724	11.07
Merseyside	26,040	9.55
Hampshire	19,665	9.83
Kent	16,767	8.25
Surrey	6,132	8.55
Sussex	14,870	7.42
Thames Valley	20,039	9.79
Avon and Somerset	13,93[illegible]	10.10
Devon and Cornwall	11,450	9.41
Dorset	5,787	10.54
Gloucestershire	5,752	12.15
Wiltshire	5,167	9.39
Dyfed-Powys	4,666	11.02
Gwent	8,524	10.83
North Wales	9,268	10.85
South Wales	19,878	11.96
Staffordshire	12,635	8.80
Warwickshire	5,147	10.51
West Mercia	11,204	9.91
West Midlands	51,622	8.95
Humberside	11,967	10.24
North Yorkshire	6,617	12.32
South Yorkshire	17,715	11.28
West Yorkshire	32,512	10.89

Restraint Techniques: Young Offenders

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times restraint has been used on a child in *(a)* secure children's homes, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* young offender institutions for the purposes of (i) preventing a criminal offence, (ii) preventing injury, (iii) preventing damage to property and (iv) maintaining good order and discipline in each month of the last three years. [287748]

Maria Eagle: Physical restraint is only ever to be used by staff in the under-18 secure estate as a last resort, when all other approaches have either not succeeded or would not be appropriate.

The data provided in the following table, for the period April 2008 to May 2009, have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time. They relate to use of restraint in secure training centres.

Central collection of information about the reasons for each restraint began in April 2008. The categories in the table relate to the purposes for which restraint was permitted under Rule 38(1) of the Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 during all or part of the period in question. Those purposes are: to prevent a trainee from escaping from custody; to prevent a trainee from injuring himself or others; to prevent damage to property; to prevent a trainee from inciting another trainee to cause injury or damage property; and to ensure good order and discipline. Prevention of a criminal offence is not, in itself, a purpose for which restraint is or was authorised under Rule 38(1). Ensuring good order and discipline ceased, at the end of July 2008, to be an approved purpose for using restraint.

Statistics relating to young offender institutions and secure children's homes are not collected in the format requested and obtaining them would require a search through individual records, which could not be carried out without disproportionate cost.

Reasons for the use of restraint in secure training centres, April 2008 to May 2009

	Escape from custody	*Injury to self or others*	*Damage to property*	*Incitement to injure or cause damage*	*Good order and discipline*	*Total*
2008						
April	0	137	7	2	4	150
May	0	95	14	1	0	110
June	1	119	13	0	3	136
July	1	170	7	4	9	191
August	0	150	15	2	[1]—	167
September	0	125	26	1	[1]—	152
October	0	143	15	1	[1]—	159
November	0	103	4	0	[1]—	107
December	0	128	14	0	[1]—	142
2009						
January	0	138	5	0	[1]—	143

Reasons for the use of restraint in secure training centres, April 2008 to May 2009

	Escape from custody	*Injury to self or others*	*Damage to property*	*Incitement to injure or cause damage*	*Good order and discipline*	*Total*
February	0	127	17	1	[1]—	145
March	0	159	29	2	[1]—	190
April	0	181	23	1	[1]—	205
May	0	156	23	0	[1]—	179

[1] Discontinued as a reason for restraint at the end of July 2008. *Note:* In July 2008, the Court of Appeal ruled that restraint could not be used in secure training centres for the purpose of ensuring good order and discipline (Re C v Secretary of State for Justice (2008) EWCA Civ 882).

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288956]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its Final Report, which can be found here at:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A Steering Group has been established under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Self-harm: Incidents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many incidents of self-harm by young adult *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners there were in each year from 2000 to 2005; and if he will make a statement; [288166]

(2) how many incidents of self-harm by juvenile *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners there were in each year from 2000 to 2003; and if he will make a statement; [288167]

(3) how many incidents of self-harm by adult *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners were recorded in each year from 2000 to 2003; and if he will make a statement. [288177]

Claire Ward: The information requested in the three questions is combined in the following table. The self-harm incidents are broken down by age and gender and cover the period since 2003, after which improvements in how self-harm is recorded were introduced. These figures are not directly comparable with those recorded before 2003.

	Under-18 incidents		*Young offender incidents*		*Adult incidents*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
2003	434	430	1,525	1,167	5,711	4,979
2004	464	561	1,584	2,069	6,561	6,294
2005	593	589	1,807	3,206	6,893	8,838
2006	672	291	2,101	2,852	8,073	8,029
2007	488	573	2,007	2,537	7,895	7,822
2008	743	686	1,982	2,990	8,138	8,965

Note:

The data presented are drawn from NOMS administrative IT systems and do not include figures for STCs or SCHs. The detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. While the figures shown have been checked as far as practicable, they must be approximate and not necessarily accurate to the last whole number shown. They are fit to be used for purposes of looking at trends and for comparing the relative magnitude of components.

The National Offender Management Service has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of Prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures. Most self harm is not directly life threatening, but nevertheless can be extremely distressing for those who have to deal with it. A prisoner focused care planning system for those at risk, ACCT, has helped prisons manage self harm. There are no easy answers to managing self-harming behaviour but we remain committed to finding ways to reduce it.

Shia Courts

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on Shia courts in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [287969]

Bridget Prentice: It is assumed the hon. Member is asking about Sharia councils. Sharia councils do not describe themselves as Sharia 'courts' because they do not have powers to enforce their decisions. Sharia councils are not part of the court system in England and Wales. There are a number of Sharia councils in England and Wales that, on a private basis, when the parties consent, apply Sharia principles to reach resolution of personal and contractual disputes. Some councils have several branches in major cities but councils are not unified under one system governing their approach to issues or their administration so their processes and even their interpretation of Sharia principles may differ.

I also refer the hon. Member to an answer given by my noble Friend Lord Bach on 21 May 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA362. The Government have also commissioned a small-scale research project to investigate the number and distribution of Sharia councils in England and Wales. There has not been any recent ministerial discussions on Sharia councils.

Shoplifting: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are available to police officers issuing a penalty notice for disorder for shop theft in the street to verify *(a)* the place of residence of the recipient and *(b)* whether the recipient has had a previous penalty notice for disorder for shop theft. [291695]

Mr. Straw: The mechanisms available to police officers to verify *(a)* the address of a recipient are documentary evidence such as a passport or driving licence which the recipient might produce; and other sources such as the Police National Computer (PNC) and electoral register and *(b)* whether a previous Penalty Notice for Disorder has been issued are the PNC and local force penalty notice databases. Police officers on the street have access to this information.

Revised operational guidance to forces on the issue of PNDs for retail theft was issued on 16 July 2009. This makes it clear that before issuing a PND on the street, officers need to establish the place of residence of a recipient and whether a recipient has had a previous penalty notice for shop theft. The guidance can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminal-justice-police-act-retail-pnd.htm

Shoplifting: Sentencing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish revised sentencing guidelines for shoplifting offences. [291696]

Mr. Straw: Sentencing guidelines are published by the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council, not by the Government. In December 2008, the Sentencing Guidelines Council published a definitive guideline on theft and burglary in a building other than a dwelling. I understand the Sentencing Guidelines Council has no plans to review the guideline on theft from a shop.

Surplus Employee

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many surplus employees his Department had on the latest date for which figures are available; what expenditure his Department incurred on salaries for surplus employees in the last 12 months; and what roles such employees fulfil. [288027]

Mr. Wills: As of 4 September 2009 the Ministry of Justice had 254 staff that were actively seeking permanent redeployment. This figure comprises both full-time and part-time staff. All staff seeking redeployment are gainfully employed and undertaking roles within the Ministry and so are not defined as surplus. They are engaged in work contributing to the delivery of public services, including core frontline activities, policy and project work and other operational roles.

The salary expenditure for staff seeking redeployment is available from May 2009 when records were centralised. Prior to then salary expenditure can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. In the last quarter the salary costs of those who were engaged in work but actively seeking permanent redeployment was £2,015,005.

The number of employees seeking redeployment changes regularly as a result of both our success in redeployment, and the addition of newly displaced staff following organisational change. Since April 2009, 102 redeployees have been found permanent jobs and the average length of time for a person seeking permanent redeployment to be placed in a new job is currently 95 days.

The Ministry of Justice seeks to redeploy equitably, fairly and in a timely manner with our best endeavours to avoid the need for recourse to compulsory redundancy.

Surveillance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what role the Information Commissioner has in monitoring the use of surveillance techniques by media organisations; what reports the Information Commissioner has received of misuse of such techniques by media organisations in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [288171]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office is the independent regulator with responsibility for enforcing the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

In his evidence session to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee on 2 September, the Information Commissioner (IC) outlined his responsibility for investigating and punishing "blagging" activity (the practice of tricking organisations into revealing confidential personal information), because this is an offence under section 55 of the DPA. It may also be relevant for the IC to investigate and take the necessary action in cases where personal information collected using surveillance techniques is then not processed in compliance with the Data Protection Principles set out in the DPA. However, enforcement of the Regulatory and Investigation Powers Act 2000 to tackle illegal phone hacking and tapping is the responsibility of the Surveillance Commissioners and not the IC.

In his evidence session, the Information Commissioner confirmed that his Office had received no further evidence about the media's use of private investigators beyond that obtained during the course of the Motorman investigation.

Unpaid Fines

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to be able to publish separate enforcement rates for fines arising from unpaid penalty notices for disorder; and if he will make a statement. [288113]

Bridget Prentice: At present, there are no plans to publish separate enforcement rates for fines arising from unpaid penalty notices for disorder.

Young Offender Institutions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 261-2W, on young offender institutions, what percentage of offenders aged *(a)* 12; *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 years who had previously been resident in a London borough were detained over 20 miles or 45 minutes travel away from their previous homes at the latest date for which figures are available. [290190]

Maria Eagle: Table A shows the percentage of 15 to 19-year-olds (male and female) who had previously been resident in a London borough and were detained in a prison or young offender institution that was over 20 miles travel away from their home area, as of September 2008. Home area is taken as a prisoner's home address. If no home address is recorded, the court of first committal is used as a proxy.

Table A

	Percentage
Percentage of 15-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles of home area	90
Percentage of 16-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles of home area	83
Percentage of 17-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles of home area	76
Percentage of 18-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles of home area	72
Percentage of 19-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles of home area	78

Source:
NOMS

Table B shows the percentage of 12 to 17-year-olds (male and female) who had previously been resident in a London borough and were detained in Secure Children's Homes or Secure Training Centres that was over 20 miles away from their home area, as of September 2008. Home area is taken as a young person's address at the time of sentence. If no address is recorded, the address of the Youth Offending Team that the young person is attached to is used as a proxy. Those aged 18 or 19 are not held in Secure Children's Homes or Secure Training Centres.

Table B

	Percentage	
	Secure Children's Homes	Secure Training Centres
Percentage of 12-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles from home area	0	n/a
Percentage of 13-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles from home area	n/a	100
Percentage of 14-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles from home area	75	89
Percentage of 15-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles from home area	25	82
Percentage of 16-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles from home area	100	100
Percentage of 17-year-olds from London area held over 20 miles from home area	n/a	86

n/a: Denotes that no young people of this age were held in Secure Children's Homes or Secure Training Centres on this date.
Source:
Youth Justice Board

Young Offender Institutions: Injuries

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 265-7W, on young offender institutions: injuries, how many incidents of *(a)* self-harm, *(b)* damage caused by restraint and *(c)* assault by offenders who had been previously resident in a London borough occurred in each young offender institution in each of the last five years. [290188]

Maria Eagle: The system used within the National Offender Management Service for analysing self harm and assaults information does not include details of prisoners' home addresses. As a result the information requested is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Young Offenders: Magistrates Courts

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children appeared before *(a)* an adult and *(b)* a youth magistrates court in the latest year for which figures are available. [289377]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of juveniles aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at adult magistrates courts and youth magistrates courts in England and Wales for 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Defendants aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at adult magistrates courts and youth magistrates courts, England and Wales, 2007[1,2]

	Number
Adult courts	11,519
Youth courts	115,015
All courts	126,534

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of offenders aged *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 years who had previously been resident in a London borough and who were released from young offender institutions in each of the last five years were reconvicted within a year for (i) violent and (ii) non-violent crimes. [290191]

Maria Eagle: Juvenile reoffending covers those aged 10 to 17. A release from custody could be from a Secure Training Centre, a Secure Children's Home or a Young Offender Institution. Data are not broken down by type of release establishment or by individual release establishment. A breakdown of previous residence by location is not available. For information on the latest juvenile reoffending statistics please consult:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/reoffending-juveniles-2007.pdf

Reoffenders that are aged 18 and 19 are included in the adult dataset. As with juveniles a breakdown of previous residence by location is not available. Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/reoffending-adults-2007.pdf

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 269W, on young offenders: sentencing, what percentage of offenders aged *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 years who had previously been resident in a London borough and who had been convicted for non-violent crimes were given community sentences in each of the last five years. [290189]

Claire Ward: The available information is shown in the following table. The table shows the percentage of those sentenced to community sentence by age in the last five years, for non-violent indictable offences. Figures for those previously resident in a London borough are not available, as places of residence are not recorded on the court proceedings database. The table shows those sentenced in the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

Percentage of persons sentenced to community sentences for non-violent indictable offences[1] in the last five years, by age in London police force areas

Age	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
12	91.4	91.0	91.3	92.3	96.9
13	86.6	91.3	90.1	87.3	92.5
14	77.1	82.5	86.5	86.6	86.2
15	71.5	75.4	73.0	77.9	78.0
16	66.1	67.3	68.0	68.9	72.1
17	58.4	55.9	59.5	59.5	59.5
18	25.7	29.3	31.1	27.9	30.3
19	24.1	28.9	28.2	25.5	23.7

[1] This includes all indictable offences not included in the violence against the person offence type. Summary offences have not been included as they are not categorised into violent or non-violent offences.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The definition of non-violent offences are all those indictable offences not included in the offence type, 'Violence Against the Person'. Summary offences have not been included as they are not categorised into violent or non-violent offences. These data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe. Data for 2008 will not be available until 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' is published.

Young People: Remand in Custody

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were received into a remand institution on a Saturday in the latest year for which figures are available. [289382]

Maria Eagle: The statistics collected by the Youth Justice Board record the number of occasions on which young people have received a custodial remand, rather than the number of individual young people who have been so remanded (these figures are different because a young person may experience more than one period in custody on remand). In the year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 there were 588 episodes of custodial remand which started on a Saturday.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of people aged 17 years who are remanded in custody. [289386]

Maria Eagle: The decision whether to grant bail or to remand a young person to the care of a local authority or to custody is a matter for the courts, which operate within the statutory framework, which is principally set out in the Bail Act 1976.

The Youth Justice Board is seeking to ensure that no young person under 18 is remanded to custody if a workable alternative can be found. It has produced a toolkit, which it intends shortly to update and relaunch, for use in conjunction with Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) for this purpose. The measures that YOTs can take to minimise use of custodial remand include setting up panels to conduct regular reviews of custody decisions; provision of bail support packages; steps to improve relationships with the courts; and remand fostering.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will undertake an assessment of local variation in the use of custodial remand in relation to children. [289869]

Maria Eagle: The decision whether to grant bail or to remand a young person to the care of a local authority or to custody is a matter for the courts, which operate within the statutory framework, which is principally set out in the Bail Act 1976.

Information on local court practice is produced six-monthly by the Sentencing Guidelines Council. The Youth Justice Board, through communications with sentencers, and performance analysis and support for youth offending teams, is working to support a reduction in the use of custody, including custodial remand, across England and Wales.

Youth Custody

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders aged *(a)* up to 16 and *(b)* 17 years of age were sent to custodial institutions (i) on remand and (ii) under sentence in each local authority area in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [289379]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board collects data by the young person's home Youth Offending Team area (some of which cover more than one local authority) and figures for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 are provided in the following table.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Youth Offending Team	*Remanded*			*Sentenced*		
	Up to 16	*17*	*Total*	*Up to 16*	*17*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	14	15	29	25	16	41
Barnet	14	15	29	5	10	15
Barnsley	3	12	15	14	8	22
Bath and North East Somerset	3	3	6	7	5	12
Bedfordshire	16	16	22	15	14	29
Bexley	5	3	8	9	6	15
Birmingham	93	98	191	130	107	237
Blackburn with Darwen	10	6	16	17	5	22
Blackpool	13	20	33	22	12	34
Blaenau, Gwent and Caerphilly	2	7	9	9	8	17
Bolton	19	26	45	20	23	43
Bournemouth and Poole	4	8	12	6	7	13
Bracknell Forest	4	12	16	5	11	16
Bradford	36	34	70	35	36	71
Brent	35	28	63	28	22	50
Bridgend	2	5	7	4	11	15
Brighton and Hove	7	9	16	15	18	33
Bristol	32	34	66	39	24	63
Bromley	14	14	28	13	8	21
Buckinghamshire	5	9	14	6	9	15
Bury	4	7	11	19	7	26
Calderdale	14	19	33	21	21	42
Cambridgeshire	9	17	26	14	17	31
Camden	10	12	22	6	12	18
Cardiff	28	26	54	39	16	55
Carmarthenshire	8	11	19	11	11	22
Ceredigion	0	1	1	0	3	3
Cheshire	14	25	39	24	34	58
Conwy and Denbighshire	8	11	19	9	14	23
Cornwall	12	10	22	7	11	18
Coventry	16	24	40	25	28	53
Croydon	24	37	61	31	22	53
Cumbria	10	24	34	32	39	71
Darlington	4	4	8	9	7	16
Derby	31	13	44	47	25	72
Derbyshire	12	11	23	48	24	72
Devon	7	8	15	10	12	22
Doncaster	13	15	28	22	24	46
Dorset	1	1	2	0	3	3
Dudley	2	19	21	22	19	41
Durham	9	13	22	14	18	32
Ealing	29	40	69	18	21	39
East Riding of Yorkshire	2	3	5	9	7	16
East Sussex	11	19	30	14	21	35
Enfield	18	25	43	13	17	30
Essex	14	32	46	37	43	80
Flintshire	4	3	7	8	8	16
Gateshead	5	9	14	11	9	20
Gloucestershire	.13	14	27	16	10	26
Greenwich	17	31	48	14	18	32
Gwynedd Mon	3	6	9	7	11	18
Hackney	39	46	85	30	29	59
Halton and Warrington	11	14	25	27	20	47
Hammersmith and Fulham	15	7	22	10	6	16
Haringey	18	19	37	18	16	34
Harrow	10	5	15	4	3	7
Hartlepool	7	8	15	1	4	5
Havering	7	18	25	10	11	21
Hertfordshire	18	26	44	21	20	41
Hillingdon	19	15	34	23	17	40
Hounslow	14	31.	45	9	9	18
Islington	25	21	46	25	17	42
Kensington and Chelsea	11	9	20	5	11	16
Kent	42	61	103	55	50	105

	Remanded			Sentenced		
Youth Offending Team	*Up to 16*	*17*	*Total*	*Up to 16*	*17*	*Total*
Kingston-Upon-Hull	34	19	53	28	23	51
Kingston-Upon-Thames	7	3	10	7	5	12
Kirklees	14	12	26	48	15	63
Knowsley	11	10	21	9	10	19
Lambeth	34	36	70	41	33	74
Lancashire	40	45	85	72	47	119
Leeds	59	51	110	99	40	139
Leicester City	20	22	42	43	24	67
Leicestershire	11	15	26	12	11	23
Lewisham	33	26	59	30	22	52
Lincolnshire	7	6	13	13	14	27
Liverpool	48	34	82	62	59	121
Luton	4	6	10	10	11	21
Manchester	86	77	163	90	68	158
Medway	11	17	28	17	16	33
Merthyr Tydfil	8	3	11	26	9	35
Merton	4	7	11	17	10	27
Milton Keynes	11	10	21	12	11	23
Miscellaneous	0	1	1	0	0	0
Monmouthshire and Torfaen	1	2	3	4	3	7
Neath Port Talbot	4	4	8	4	6	10
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	19	33	52	14	11	25
Newham	34	42	76	43	20	63
Newport	7	7	14	18	5	23
Norfolk	11	15	26	36	22	58
North East Lincolnshire	13	15	28	18	17	35
North Lincolnshire	23	18	41	25	17	42
North Somerset	7	5	12	8	9	17
North Tyneside	6	6	12	18	17	35
North Yorkshire	7	16	23	15	23	38
Northamptonshire	22	26	48	31	21	52
Northumberland	8	9	17	5	6	11
Nottingham	41	50	91	60	53	113
Nottinghamshire	14	16	30	32	26	58
Oldham	16	10	26	26	12	38
Oxfordshire	20	26	46	19	15	34
Pembrokeshire	3	6	9	0	2	2
Peterborough	9	12	21	35	15	50
Plymouth	9	9	18	11	14	25
Powys	1	0	1	2	4	6
Reading	4	8	12	8	9	17
Redbridge	22	19	41	21	15	36
Rhondda Cynon Taff	10	12	22	13	20	33
Richmond-upon-Thames	3	4	7	6	2	8
Rochdale	17	19	36	31	24	55
Rotherham	13	21	34	28	23	51
Salford	12	16	28	24	28	52
Sandwell	26	17	43	26	19	45
Sefton	7	16	23	13	11	24
Sheffield	43	50	93	38	43	81
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin	10	14	24	17	17	34
Slough	5	8	13	4	6	10
Solihull	9	9	18	7	5	12
Somerset	5	13	18	8	11	19
South Gloucestershire	4	4	8	6	8	14
South Tees	21	19	40	30	27	57
South Tyneside	6	6	12	6	5	11
Southend-on-Sea	9	7	16	17	15	32
Southwark	31	46	77	46	46	92
St. Helens	8	14	22	13	8	21
Staffordshire	13	13	26	21	26	47
Stockport	5	10	15	15	17	32
Stockton-on-Tees	6	7	13	14	6	20
Stoke-on-Trent	19	14	33	21	17	38

Youth Offending Team	Remanded			Sentenced		
	Up to 16	17	Total	Up to 16	17	Total
Suffolk	13	21	34	24	33	57
Sunderland	1	3	4	11	11	22
Surrey	9	13	22	4	11	15
Sutton	3	5	8	7	6	13
Swansea	6	7	13	9	12	21
Swindon	6	5	11	6	4	10
Tameside	3	19	22	17	14	31
Thurrock	2	14	16	7	14	21
Torbay	5	2	7	5	2	7
Tower Hamlets and City of London	16	19	35	21	18	39
Trafford	14	17	31	22	20	42
Vale of Glamorgan	6	11	17	7	10	17
Wakefield	6	13	19	8	15	23
Walsall	8	15	23	20	15	35
Waltham Forest	18	21	39	22	15	37
Wandsworth	20	30	50	24	24	48
Warwickshire	5	9	14	12	12	24
Wessex	68	87	155	113	99	212
West Berkshire	1	5	6	5	2	7
West Sussex	26	29	55	26	14	40
Westminster	10	9	19	14	9	23
Wigan	4	12	16	25	18	43
Wiltshire	0	3	3	4	2	6
Windsor and Maidenhead	3	2	5	2	1	3
Wirral	17	13	30	17	14	31
Wokingham	2	4	6	5	1	6
Wolverhampton	13	11	24	19	19	38
Worcestershire and Herefordshire	14	16	30	39	24	63
Wrexham	8	14	22	17	15	32
York	6	15	21	8	14	22
Grand Total	2,255	2,683	4,938	3,232	2,727	5,959

Notes:
The following Youth Offending Teams cover more than one local authority area:
Bournemouth and Poole (Bournemouth and Poole local authorities)
Cornwall (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly local authorities)
Halton and Warrington (Halton and Warrington local authorities)
Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin local authorities)
South Tees (Redcar, Cleveland and Middlesbrough local authorities)
Tower Hamlets and City of London (Tower Hamlets and City of London local authorities)
Wessex (Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth local authorities)
Worcestershire and Herefordshire (Worcestershire and Herefordshire local authorities)

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders aged *(a)* up to 16 and *(b)* 17 years of age were held in custodial institutions (i) on remand, (ii) under sentence for crimes of violence and (iii) under sentence for offences not involving violence on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [289181]

Maria Eagle: The following tables provide the requested information in respect of young people in custody on 26 June 2009.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

	Age		
	(a) Up to 16	(b)17	Total
(i) Young people in custody on, remand	306	329	635
(ii) Under sentence for crimes of violence	540	636	1,176
(iii) Under sentence for crimes not involving violence	410	445	855

A table of violent offences for which young people were recorded as being held in custody under sentence on this date is as follows.

Offence group	Offence
Arson	Arson endangering life
Domestic burglary	Aggravated burglary of a dwelling
Public order	Public order offence
	Riot/affray
	Section 4 Public Order Act 1986
	Section 3 Violent Disorder
	Section 5 Public Order Act (harassment, alarm, or distress)—Racially Aggravated, (Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Section 31 (1))
	Section 5 Public Order Act 1986

Offence group	*Offence*
Racially aggravated	Common assault—racially aggravated
	Racially aggravated
	Section 4 Public Order Act 1968—Racially Aggravated—threatening, abusive, or insulting words or behaviour (Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 31 (1)(a))
Robbery	Assault with intent to rob
	Robbery
Sexual offences	Attempted rape
	Buggery by a male aged 16-17 with a male aged 16 or over
	Buggery by a male of female under 16
	Indecent Assault on female aged 16 or over
	Indecent Assault on female aged under 16
	Indecent Assault on male aged 16 or over
	Indecent Assault on male aged under 16
	Other incest
	Rape—Female
	Rape—Male
	Sexual offence
	Unlawful sexual intercourse with female under 13
Vehicle theft/ unauthorised taking	Aggravated vehicle taking
Violence against the person	Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
	Assault with intent to resist apprehension or assault on a person assisting a constable
	Attempted murder
	Causing explosion or casting corrosive fluids with intent to do grievous bodily harm
	Common assault
	Endangering railway passenger by placing anything on railway, taking up rail, changing points or signals
	False imprisonment
	Kidnapping
	Making written or verbal threats to kill
	Malicious wounding/grievous bodily harm
	Manslaughter
	Murder
	Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence or resist offence
	Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause violence
	Possession of an offensive weapon
	Possession of firearm or imitation firearm at time of committing or being arrested for an offence under Schedule 1 of the Firearms Act 1968
	Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life or injure property
	Threat or conspiracy to murder
	Violence against person
	Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm

Non-violent offences for which young people were recorded as being held under sentence in custody on this date were as follows:

Offence group	*Offence*
Arson	Arson
	Arson not endangering life
Breach of bail	Breach of bail
Breach of conditional discharge	Breach of conditional discharge
Breach of statutory order	Breach of ASBO
	Breach of detention and training order
	Breach of extended sentence
	Breach of Section 91 sentence
	Breach of statutory order
Criminal damage	Criminal damage
	Threat to commit criminal damage
Domestic burglary	Burglary of a dwelling
Drugs	Cultivation of Cannabis
	Drugs offence
	Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply it to another
	Importation/exportation of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 197
	Possession of Class A drug
	Possession of Class B drug
	Possession of Class C drug]
	Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug or being concerned in the doing of either activity by another
Fraud and forgery	Fraud
Motoring offences	Driving whilst disqualified driving with excess alcohol Interfering with motor vehicle
Non domestic burglary	Burglary of a non-dwelling
Other	Other
	Perverting the course of justice
Theft and handling stolen goods	Going equipped for stealing
	Handling stolen goods
	Making off without payment
	Theft and handling
	Theft from a motor vehicle
	Theft from a public place
	Theft from a shop
	Theft from the person
	Theft in a dwelling
Vehicle theft/ unauthorised taking	Allowing him/herself to be carried in a stolen car
	Theft of motor vehicle
	Taking without consent
	Vehicle Theft

Youth Custody: Restraint Techniques

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to paragraph 8.30 of the 2008 "Independent Review of Restraint: Juvenile Secure Settings", if he will place in the Library a copy of the documentation relating to Adapted C & R piloted in May 2006 in Feltham and Cookham Wood young offenders institutions. [290074]

Maria Eagle: A pilot of juvenile restraint techniques (JRT) for use on young people (15 to 17-year-olds) commenced in May 2006. An interim evaluation report was produced in April 2007 and I have arranged for a copy of this to be placed in the House of Commons Library. Shortly after the completion of this report, the "Independent Review of the Use of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings" was announced and a decision was taken to suspend further work on JRT pending the outcome of the review.

The Government's response to the independent review was published in December 2008 and part of this announced the development of a more comprehensive system of restraint for young people as part of a wider behaviour management system. Piloting of this new system of restraint is expected to begin early next year.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to paragraph 8.39 of the 2008 "Independent Review of Restraint: Juvenile Secure Settings", if he will place in the Library a copy of the Prison Service review into the case for extending the use of the baton to the young people's estate. [290075]

Maria Eagle: I have arranged for a copy of the Prison Service report, "Review of the Potential Use of the Baton in the Young People's Estate" to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Youth Justice

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment the Office for Criminal Justice Reform undertook in deciding to allocate a grant to the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers for the purposes of building a case management system for youth offenders. [290281]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board applied for funding in May 2008 for an integrated Youth Offending Team (YOT) case management system to address concerns raised by the Association of YOT Managers and YOT Managers Cymru on the capability of their existing systems. The decision to allocate funding was made by a cross-criminal justice agency board following consideration of the business case and related documentation, a review against agreed investment principles, a technical design review, and an independent review from Gartner on the effectiveness of current case management systems in use by the youth justice system. The project is managed as part of the Youth Justice Board's wider Wiring Up Youth Justice Programme.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Pupil Funding

11. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding per pupil his Department allocated to *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools in (i) North Wiltshire constituency and (ii) Normanton constituency for 2009-10. [292202]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government allocate funding to local authorities, not by constituency, so we do not hold figures for North Wiltshire or Normanton constituencies. Separate figures are not available for primary and secondary schools as funding is not allocated by phase.

The guaranteed funding per pupil for Wiltshire for 2009-10 is £3,849, and for Wakefield it is £4,022. The amount of Dedicated Schools Grant that local authorities receive is dependant on the number of pupils on roll. Wiltshire has received just over £243 million and Wakefield £182 million for 2009-10.

Illiteracy

14. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of rates of illiteracy amongst children of primary school age. [292205]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: It is not appropriate to use the term 'illiterate' to describe primary school pupils who are still learning. Primary school standards have never been higher. In 2009 92 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved level 3 or above in reading, and 94 per cent. in writing. This means they can read a range of texts accurately and independently and their writing is organised, legible and clear. Many of those working below test level at age 11 will have a range of learning difficulties. We have proven, successful programmes like Every Child a Reader and Every Child a Writer in place to support those who are struggling.

Standards: Secondary Education

15. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to raise academic standards in secondary schools. [292206]

Mr. Coaker: Secondary school standards have risen substantially since 1997, thanks to excellent leadership and teaching; support from the National Strategies; better use of pupil data; and the ambitious targets schools and local authorities have set for their pupils.

We published our school improvement strategy in the White Paper, 'Your Child, Your School, Our Future' on 30 June to build upon the improvements already made and deliver a world class education system.

16 to 19-year-olds: Funding

16. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received on funding for school education for 16 to 19-year-olds; and if he will make a statement. [292207]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have received three representations from schools about their 2009-10 funding allocation since June. These raised queries about the level of their allocation. We will be investing over £2.2 billion in 2009-10, enabling over 400,000 young people to have a place in a school sixth from in 2009-10. This will fund schools to make their vital contribution to deliver the September Guarantee providing an appropriate place in learning for any young person who wants one.

South Battersea: Secondary Education

17. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the London borough of Wandsworth on the provision of a secondary school in south Battersea. [292208]

Mr. Coaker: Ministers have not had any discussions with the London Borough of Wandsworth about the provision of a secondary school in south Battersea.

FE Colleges: Funding

18. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on steps to support further education colleges whose enrolment figures have increased as a result of the recession; and if he will make a statement. [292209]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have not recently met the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills on this issue, but we both recognise the vital role FE colleges play in developing the skills and knowledge of young people and adults. Hence, we are investing over £3.5 billion in 2009-10 enabling FE colleges to contribute to the September Guarantee for young people, including an extra £62 million secured in Budget 2009 to deal with the impact of the economic downturn.

Disadvantaged Pupils

19. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to ensure that pupils from disadvantaged areas achieve their full potential. [292210]

Mr. Coaker: Over the past decade, all schools and areas have improved their performance substantially—but those with the most deprived cohorts have made the largest gains.

Schools have achieved these results through improved personalisation; through projects like The Extra Mile; and through our successful Academies and National and City Challenge programmes.

In our "Breaking the Link" publication and the Schools White Paper we set out further plans to ensure even greater equity of outcomes.

City of York School Capital Spending

20. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much central Government allocated to City of York council for school capital spending in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [292212]

Mr. Coaker: £0.8 million pounds was allocated to York in 1996-97. During the current three-year spending review period, we are allocating the city £40.0 million, that is, an average of £13.3 million a year.

Pre-1914 Schools: East Lancashire

21. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information he holds on the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in East Lancashire whose premises were constructed before 1914. [292213]

Mr. Coaker: Asset management data, including data on the ages of school buildings, were supplied to my Department by local authorities, most recently in 2006. My Department has not analysed the data at this level of detail within an authority but can provide it by 7 November 2009.

Youth Justice System

22. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to provide support to young people with communication disabilities within the youth justice system. [292214]

Mr. Coaker: We are working with the Communication Trust to improve awareness and support for young people in the youth justice system with communication needs. Supported by DCSF funding, the Communications Trust is taking forward a programme to improve awareness of the importance of young people's communication needs in the secure estate and Youth Offending Teams. The trust is developing training for the youth justice workforce and influencing existing workforce programmes and National Occupational Standards.

National Curriculum

23. **Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the future of testing in the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [292215]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In May, we accepted in full the recommendations of the Expert Group on Assessment on the future of national curriculum assessment and testing. The group was clear that tests at the end of Key Stage 2 were educationally beneficial and vital for public accountability, and so the tests in English and maths will remain in place. We are also continuing and extending our trials of single level tests, and introducing new sample tests for Key Stage 2 science and for Key Stage 3.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many local authorities the implementation of the Building Schools for the Future programme has been suspended in the absence of a visionary or transformative bid. [291798]

Mr. Coaker: Three Building Schools for the Future projects—Hull, Oldham, and Stoke—have previously been suspended in the pre-procurement phase while the local authorities were asked to re-examine their school estate proposals to ensure that the proposals would make a significant educational impact.

Local authorities are required to demonstrate that their BSF plans are visionary and transformational at two key points in the process. At initial entry, local authorities must submit a robust 'Readiness to Deliver' document which explains how their plans will impact on the local educational environment. Once the programme has commenced, they are required to submit a 'Strategy for Change' which describes the educational impact of their plans across all of the local schools to benefit from BSF investment. If, at either milestone, it is judged that the local authority is not setting high enough aspirations, they are asked to revise the strategies and resubmit them. This process helps to reduce the need to suspend BSF programmes.

Children in Care

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of care leavers were living in suitable accommodation *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [291190]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: The information for the years 2004-08 has been placed in the House Libraries. Earlier years can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been taken into alternative care as a result of low parental income in each of the last five years. [291853]

Dawn Primarolo: Children are not taken into care because of parental low income.

A care order cannot be issued for a child simply because their parents are on a low income. Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 specifies that, to issue a care order, the court has to be satisfied that:

(A) The child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm; and

(B) That the harm, or likelihood of harm, is attributable to:

the care given to the child (or likely to be given to him if the order were not made) not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give to him; or

the child's being beyond parental control.

In all cases of children being taken into care on care orders, these conditions will have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of a court.

Children in Care: Disabled

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what review processes are in place to monitor the care of children with disabilities in long-term institutional care; [289573]

(2) what plans he has to estimate the number of children with disabilities in long-term institutional care. [289574]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Local authorities have to develop care plans setting out how they intend to respond to the assessed needs of disabled children who are living away from their family and are being looked after by the local authority.

All care plans must be kept under review so that progress can be monitored and revised as circumstances change. Review meetings should be chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and conducted in accordance with minimum statutory requirements: within 28 days, three months and six monthly intervals after placement. Reviews should ensure that there is no undue delay in implementing the actions set out in a child's plan and that the child's views are taken in to account.

Children's Homes, including those who care for children with disabilities, must comply with the Children's Homes Regulations Act 2001 and the National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes and are registered, inspected and regulated by Ofsted.

The regulations and standards make specific reference to where children with disabilities are cared for in the home, with the overarching ethos being that disabled children in the home should be able to receive the same opportunities as other children within the home.

There are no plans to estimate the number of disabled children who are in residential settings.

Children: Databases

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have been disciplined for misuse of data collected for the ContactPoint database in each year since data collection for that database began. [283329]

Dawn Primarolo: All organisations using ContactPoint must complete organisational accreditation before their staff can be granted access to ContactPoint. Part of the organisational accreditation involves ensuring that appropriate disciplinary procedures are in place in the employing organisation should it be necessary to invoke them in relation to any inappropriate use of ContactPoint.

The use of ContactPoint is monitored at both national and local level. Local authorities are responsible for investigating suspected misuse within their user base. A central DCSF team also reviews use of the system and data by local authorities and national partners. If unusual activity by users within a local authority area or a national partner organisation were to be detected by regular auditing, or was suspected or reported, the local authority or national partner ContactPoint Management Team must suspend the user account, notify the user's manager and carry out an immediate investigation using local policies and procedures.

In the eventuality that there was misuse of data held on ContactPoint, disciplinary action would be a matter for the employer of the individual concerned. No one has been disciplined for misuse of data. However, through DCSF auditing, we have identified five instances where correct procedures were not followed by ContactPoint users. Typically, these were users who searched for records, for example, those of family members, in order to 'test' the system, in what they believed was a 'safe' way, before undertaking work such as apply shields to records that need them. All cases were immediately investigated and appropriate action has been taken. One of these five instances resulted in an individual being disciplined. The incident, although inappropriate, did not lead to ContactPoint data being compromised and there is no evidence that any of these instances indicated malicious intent, posed any risk to the security of children's records or constituted misuse of data on ContactPoint.

We have always said that we will carefully monitor the activity of early adopter practitioners to identify any further improvements that may be required. In the light of these instances, we further strengthened our training and guidance materials on correct procedures and use of ContactPoint. This demonstrates that the stringent security processes we have in place are working.

Children: Day Care

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of registered childminders were *(a)* male and *(b)* female in each local authority area in the North West in each year since 1997. [289292]

Dawn Primarolo: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey provides estimates of the proportion of childminders[1] who are male and female in England. Estimates can be provided of the number and proportion of male and female staff by region for 2006 and 2007, however these data are not available at the local authority level, or for earlier years. Table 1 provides the number and proportion of male and female childminders in England from 1998 until 2007. These data are not available for years prior to 1998. Table 2 provides the number and proportion of male and female childminders in the North West in 2006 and 2007.

[1] The data provided refer to the number and proportion of working childminders. Childminders who were registered but not working are not included.

Table 1: Sex of childminders in England

	Male childminders		Female childminders	
	Proportion of childminders[1]	Number of male childminders[2]	Proportion of childminders[1]	Number of female childminders[2]
1998	0.5	470	99	92,400
2001	0.5	400	99	71,900
2003	1	800	99	72,100
2005	2	1,000	98	56,700
2006	2	1,200	98	56,700
2007	1	620	99	59,200

[1] Proportions may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

[2] All numbers provided have been rounded. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they are greater than 1,000, to the nearest 50 if the number is 100 to 999 and to the nearest 10 if the number is below 100.

Table 2: Sex of childminders in the north west

	Male childminders		Female childminders	
	Proportion of childminders[1]	Number of male childminders[2]	Proportion of childminders[1]	Number of female childminders[2]
2006	1	90	99	6,600
2007	0	[3]0	100	6,900

[1] Proportions may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

[2] All numbers provided have been rounded. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they are greater than 1,000, to the nearest 50 if the number is 100 to 999 and to the nearest 10 if the number is below 100.

[3] As this survey is based on a sample of providers in England, when the sample is broken down by region the number of childminders interviewed in each region is relatively small. Therefore, this does not mean that there were no male childminders in the north west in 2007, only that no male childminders were selected in the sample of providers within the north west region for the 2007 survey.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of local authorities have a childminding network; [289325]

(2) how many and what proportion of childminders are part of a local authority childminding network. [289326]

Dawn Primarolo: In January 2009, there were 72 (48 per cent.) out of 150 local authorities with at least one childminding network which received Government funding to deliver the free entitlement. The DCSF only receives information on the number of childminding networks which receive funding to deliver the free entitlement. Other childminding networks may exist but the Department has no information on these as they do not deliver the free entitlement.

Information on the number of childminders that are part of a local authority childminding network is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childcare staff in nurseries had an appropriate *(a)* level 3 or higher and *(b)* level 5 or higher qualification in each of the last five years. [289795]

Mr. Coaker: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff qualifications that are relevant to working with children and young people. Data on the number and proportion of paid staff in maintained nursery schools holding *(a)* at least a level 3 and *(b)* at least a level 5 qualification are shown in the following table. 2007 is the most recent year for which this information is available. Data on the number of nursery staff by qualification level in 2003 are not available.

Proportion and number of paid staff in maintained nursery schools qualified to at least level 3 and at least level 5, England

	2007		2006		2003
	Proportion of staff (percentage)	Number of staff	Proportion of staff (percentage)	Number of staff	Proportion of staff (percentage)
At least level 3	83	4,100	80	3,700	78

Proportion and number of paid staff in maintained nursery schools qualified to at least level 3 and at least level 5, England

	2007		2006		2003
	Proportion of staff (percentage)	*Number of staff*	*Proportion of staff (percentage)*	*Number of staff*	*Proportion of staff (percentage)*
At least level 5	36	1,800	30	1,500	n/a

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average number of hours worked per week by *(a)* childcarers in maintained settings, *(b)* childcarers in private, voluntary and independent nurseries and *(c)* childminders in each year since 2003. [289798]

Mr. Coaker: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that staff working in full day care in Children's Centres worked an average (mean) of 34 hours a week in 2007, compared with an average of 18 hours a week for staff in sessional settings. Data for all child care and early years' providers for each year available are shown in the following table.

Average number of hours worked per week by staff in child care and early years provision in maintained schools

	2003	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Full day care	35	32	33	33
Full day care in Children's Centres	n/a	n/a	34	34
Sessional	17	18	17	18
After school clubs	19	n/a	19	18
Holiday clubs	31.5	n/a	27	29
Nursery schools	32.5	n/a	32	31
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	33	n/a	31	29
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	28	n/a	29	27

Notes:
1. Children's centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2006, therefore data are not available for previous years.
2. After school and holiday clubs were sampled differently in 2005 and comparable figures for this year are not available.
3. Early years settings in maintained schools were not included in the 2005 survey.

In 2007 full day care staff in privately owned settings worked an average of 35 hours a week, compared with 27 hours for full day care staff in settings under voluntary ownership. 2007 data for all child care providers available are shown in the following table.

Average number of hours worked per week by child care staff, by ownership of setting, 2007

	Private	*Voluntary*	*Local authority*	*School/ college*	*Other*
Full day care	35	27	32	32	34
Full day care in Children's Centres	35	34	34	33	36
Sessional	18	18	24	20	16
After school clubs	21	16	21	14	19
Holiday clubs	30	26	30	30	29

Note:
Data for other providers are not available by type of ownership.

In 2006 full day care staff in privately owned settings worked an average of 35 hours a week, compared with 26 hours for full day care staff in settings under voluntary ownership. 2006 data for all child care providers available are shown in the following table.

Average number of hours worked per week by staff in child care providers, by ownership of setting, 2006

	Private	*Voluntary*	*Local authority*	*School/ college*	*Other*
Full day care	35	26	32	33	35
Full day care in Children's Centres	35	34	34	34	35
Sessional	17	16	20	25	15
Out of school care	26	20	25	19	27

Note:
Data for other providers are not available by type of ownership.

Data prior to 2006 are not available for the average number of hours worked per week by staff in child care providers, by ownership of setting. The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the average(mean) number of hours per week that childminders accept children for during term time and during school holidays (i.e. the time open for, but the childminder may not necessarily actually be working the whole time). This information comes closest to representing what a typical weekly shift is for a childminder. Data for each year available are shown in the following table.

Average number of hours per week that children are accepted by a childminder

	Term time	*School holidays*
2003	39	40
2005	43	45
2006	43	45
2007	44	48

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childminders have been deregistered for each reason for deregistration in each year since 2003. [289800]

Dawn Primarolo: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine G[illegible]ert, dated 1 September 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Table A shows figures for the number of childminders who have resigned or had their registrations cancelled. Figures showing cancelled and resigned childminders are retrieved from a snapshot of the Ofsted database at the end of each financial year: 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2008-09. Figures showing the total number of childminders are taken from a snapshot of the Ofsted database at the start of each financial year.

Although Ofsted records reasons for cancellation and resignation on an individual basis, the information is not collated under categories, so it is not possible to produce aggregated data from it.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Numbers and proportions of childminders deregistered in each financial year since 2003/04

		Childminders					
		Cancelled		*Resigned*		*Total cancelled or resigned*	
Financial year	*Number of childminders at the beginning of the financial year*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2003/04	68,165	1,209	2	10,864	16	12,073	18
2004/05	72,386	2,970	4	12,373	17	15,343	21
2005/06	70,182	968	1	9,454	13	10,422	15
2006/07	71,622	3,204	4	9,739	14	12,943	18
2007/08	69,925	2,857	4	11,721	17	14,578	21
2008/09	64,648	1,445	2	10,345	16	11,790	18

Note:
Percentages in the total column may not equal the sum of the other columns, because the figures are rounded.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards meeting the target of each full daycare setting being led by a graduate and all childcare staff being qualified to level 3 by 2015. [289802]

Mr. Coaker: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff qualifications that are relevant to working with children and young people. The qualifications are grouped together in the levels that they have been accredited with by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority; qualifications at level 6 or above are at degree level. The 2007 survey found that 16 per cent. of full day care settings employ at least one member of staff with qualifications at level 6 or above. The survey also found that 64 per cent. of all staff (child care staff, early years staff and childminders) held at least a level 3 qualification.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* day care settings and *(b)* childminders in Basingstoke have been awarded a rating of (i) outstanding, (ii) good, (iii) satisfactory and (iv) inadequate following an inspection by Ofsted in each year since 2003; [289804]

(2) how many and what proportion of childminders were deemed inadequate by Ofsted in the 10 per cent. *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived local authority areas in 2008-09; [290195]

(3) how many and what proportion of childminders were deemed inadequate by Ofsted in each year since inspections began; [290196]

(4) how many and what proportion of day care settings in the 10 per cent. *(a)* most and *(b)* least deprived local authority areas were awarded ratings of inadequate following an Ofsted inspection in 2008-09; [290197]

(5) how many and what proportion of day care settings were awarded ratings of inadequate following an Ofsted inspection in each year for which records are available. [290198]

Dawn Primarolo: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, will write to the hon. Member and copies of her replies will be placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Miriam Rosen, dated 10 August 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to Ofsted for response. As Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills, Christine Gilbert, is currently on leave, I am responding on her behalf.

Tables A to F below show the inspection grades of day care settings and childminders in Basingstoke since 2003.

The figures for each period are taken from a snapshot of data at the end of each financial year. These data only include providers that were active at this point. Additionally, the figures only count the most recent inspection outcome for each provision at the time of the snapshot, provided their inspection reports had been published or quality assured and not withdrawn from publication.

Please note that the inspection judgements requested cover three inspection cycles. Those inspections carried out in the inspection cycle from April 2003 to end-March 2005 inspected the quality of provision against the National Standards for under-eights and were graded on a three point scale. Those from April 2005 to end-August 2008 were also inspected against the National Standards, but graded on the four point scale outlined in the question. It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from a three-to a four-point scale. Care should be taken when interpreting data for 'childcare on domestic premises' as the numbers are so small.

There was a further change of inspection framework following the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in September 2008. At this point, Ofsted also changed the way in which we record day-care provision, categorising providers as childcare on domestic and non-domestic premises. These categories broadly relate to the previous category of group day-care provision. The data for September 2008 to March 2009 are presented separately and, as above, it is not possible to operate a simple read-across between inspection frameworks.

Please note that the selection of provision for inspection each year is not random, so care needs to be taken when using the data.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Table A: Inspection grades from inspections of childminders in Basingstoke, financial years 2003-05

	Good	*Percentage*	*Satisfactory*	*Percentage*	*Unsatisfactory*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2003-04	22	33	45	67	0	0	67
2004-05	93	64	52	36	0	0	145

Table B: Inspection grades from inspections of childminders in Basingstoke, 2005-06 to end-August 2008

	Outstanding	Percentage	Good	Percentage	Satisfactory	Percentage	Inadequate	Percentage	Total
2005-06	2	3	40	69	15	26	1	2	58
2006-07	0	0	26	55	16	34	5	11	47
2007-08	8	8	51	50	34	33	10	10	103
1 April 2008—31 August 2008	2	10	7	35	9	45	2	10	20

Table C: Inspection grades from inspections of childminders in Basingstoke, September 2008 to end-March 2009

	Outstanding	Percentage	Good	Percentage	Satisfactory	Percentage	Inadequate	Percentage	Total
1 Sept. 2008—31 March 2009	7	17	17	40	14	33	4	10	42

Table D: Inspection grades from inspections of day care providers in Basingstoke, financial years 2003-05

	Good	Percentage	Satisfactory	Percentage	Unsatisfactory	Percentage	Total
2003-04	12	39	19	61	0	0	31
2004-05	26	67	13	33	0	0	39

Table E: Inspection grades from inspections of day care providers in Basingstoke, 2005-06 to end-August 2008

	Outstanding	Percentage	Good	Percentage	Satisfactory	Percentage	Inadequate	Percentage	Total
2005-06	0	0	12	48	11	44	2	8	25
2006-07	2	8	12	46	10	38	2	8	26
2007-08	2	6	21	62	9	26	2	6	34
1 April 2008—31 August 2008	0	0	5	63	3	38	0	0	8

Table F: Inspection grades from inspections of childcare on domestic and non-domestic premises in Basingstoke, September 2008 to end-March 2009

	Outstanding	Percentage	Good	Percentage	Satisfactory	Percentage	Inadequate	Percentage	Total
Non-domestic	3	17	9	50	4	22	2	11	18
Domestic	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—	0

Please note that percentages are rounded so may not add up to 100 per cent.

Data refer to financial years but is also split for 2008-09 due to the change of inspection framework provision types on the 1 September 2008.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of staff vacancies in *(a)* maintained nurseries, *(b)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries and *(c)* Sure Start children's centres was in each year since 2006. [290202]

Mr. Coaker: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on recruitment and staff vacancies in child care and early year's providers. Table 1 shows the proportion of full day care providers that were trying to recruit for vacancies in 2007, by type of staff and ownership of the provision. 2007 is the most recent year for which this information is available.

Table 1: Number of vacancies full day care providers are trying to recruit for, by staff type and type of ownership, 2007

Percentage

	Private	Voluntary	Local authority	School/ college	Other
Senior managers					
None	89	87	74	91	100
1 vacancy	9	13	15	9	—
2 vacancies	1	—	4	—	—
3 or more vacancies	1	—	—	—	—
Supervisory staff					
None	45	58	24	42	76
1 vacancy	41	39	40	39	24
2 vacancies	12	2	11	14	—
3 or more vacancies	2	—	26	5	—
Other paid staff					
None	45	38	63	42	—
1 vacancy	36	37	6	29	24
2 vacancies	14	19	20	30	57
3 or more vacancies	3	2	10	—	19

Note:
Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent. due to 'don't know' responses or rounding.

Table 2 shows the proportion of full day care providers that were trying to recruit for vacancies in 2006, by type of staff and ownership of the provision. Data for previous years are not available in the format requested.

Table 2: Proportion of full day care providers trying to recruit for vacancies, by staff type and ownership, 2006

Percentage

	Private	*Voluntary*	*Local authority*	*School/ college*	*Other*
Senior managers					
None	86	88	68	79	73
1 vacancy	13	12	32	17	27
2 vacancies	<1	0	0	4	0
3 or more vacancies	0	0	0	0	0
Supervisory staff					
None	42	49	37	43	81
1 vacancy	44	46	36	48	10
2 vacancies	10	5	13	5	9
3 or more vacancies	3	0	14	4	0
Other paid staff					
None	51	43	61	53	35
1 vacancy	34	42	14	35	48
2 vacancies	11	13	15	4	9
3 or more vacancies	4	1	10	4	8

Note:

Percentages may not sum to 100 per cent. due to 'don't know' responses or rounding.

The number of full day care providers in children's centres who were trying to recruit staff was too low for analysis to be carried out.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of carers in daycare settings for children were from *(a)* white and *(b)* black and minority ethnic groups in each year since 2003. [290360]

Dawn Primarolo: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on the ethnicity of staff in the child care and early years workforce. In 2007 only childminders and early years providers in maintained schools were asked about the ethnicity of their staff. Data on the ethnicity of staff in daycare settings were not collected. Table 1 shows the proportion of staff from white and black and minority ethnic groups by setting in 2007, the latest year for which this information is available.

Table 1: Ethnicity of staff in workforce in England, 2007

	Proportion of BME staff (percentage)	*Number of BME staff*[1]	*Proportion of staff not from a BME group (percentage)*	*Number of staff not from a BME group*
Childminders	7	3,900	93	55,900
Nursery schools	12	600	88	4,400
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	10	5,200	90	47,100
Primary with reception but no nursery classes	2	800	98	37,800

[1] All numbers provided have been rounded. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they are greater than 1,000, to the nearest 50 if the number is 100-999 and to the nearest 10 if the number is below 100.

Note:

Figures on the number of staff from a BME group and the proportion and number not from a BME group have been estimated using the figures for the proportion of staff from a BME group and the overall paid number of staff.

Data on the number and proportion of staff in daycare settings from white and black and minority ethnic groups for each year available since 2003 are shown as follows.

Table 2: Ethnicity of staff working in full day care settings in England

	2003	*2005*	*2006*
Average proportion of BME staff per setting (percentage)	8	10	9
Average proportion of staff per setting not from a BME group (percentage)	92	90	91
Total number of BME staff	8,800	13,550	13,000
Total number of staff not from a BME group	102,300	119,100	130,900

Note:

Full day care figures for 2005 and 2006 on the average proportion of staff per setting not from a BME group and the total number of staff not from a BME group have been estimated using the figures for staff from a BME group and the overall number of paid staff.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of childminders were from *(a)* white and *(b)* black and minority ethnic groups in each year since 2003; [290361]

(2) how many and what proportion of childminders were from black and minority ethnic groups in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [289389]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2007 Childcare and Early Years providers Survey estimated that 7 per cent. of childminders[1] working in England were from a black and minority ethnic (BME) background, a total of approximately 3,900 individuals.

Data for each year are shown in the following table.

	BME Childminders		*Childminders not from a BME group*	
	Proportion of childminders[2] *(%)*	*Number of BME childminders*[3]	*Proportion of childminders*[2] *(%)*	*Number of childminders not from a BME group*[3]
2003	13	9,500	86	63,100
2004	7	4,000	92	53,200

	BME Childminders		*Childminders not from a BME group*	
	Proportion of childminders[2] (%)	*Number of BME childminders[3]*	*Proportion of childminders[2] (%)*	*Number of childminders not from a BME group[3]*
2006	6	3,600	93	53,800
2007	7	3,900	93	55,810

[1] The data provided refer to the number and proportion of working childminders. Childminders who were registered but not working are not included.

[2] Proportions may not sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding.

[3] All numbers provided have been rounded. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they are greater than 1000, to the nearest 50 if the number is 100-999 and to the nearest 10 if the number is below 100.

Data for 2008 will be available when the 2008 Childcare and Early Years Providers' Survey is published later this year.

Childminders remain the child carers of choice for thousands of families because of the high quality, flexible and responsive service that they offer, but we are continuing to work closely with sector partners (including the National Childminding Association) to strengthen their professional development and the quality of their provision. We are keen to see a diverse and vibrant childcare sector which includes childminders from a range of minority ethnic backgrounds. We will work with Ofsted and the National Childminding Association (NCMA) to look at the factors which are leading to childminders from a BME backgrounds to choose to leave the childminding profession.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of child care *(a)* places and *(b)* providers there were in the (i) maintained and (ii) private, voluntary and independent sectors in (A) Hampshire and (B) England on the latest date for which figures are available. [290365]

Dawn Primarolo: Ofsted maintains the new registers established under the Childcare Act 2006. The chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 8 September 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Table A provides figures for the total number of childcare providers registered with Ofsted and the maximum number of childcare places these providers offer in Hampshire and England as at 31 March 2009 and 30 June 2009. These figures represent 100 per cent of the childcare registered by Ofsted. Please note that we do not classify providers as 'maintained'.

Table A: Number of registered child care providers and maximum number of places offered

	Area	*Total number of providers registered*	*Maximum number of registered places offered by providers for children under eight*
31 March 2009	England	95,926	1,546,900
	Hampshire	3,281	48,709
30 June 2009	England	95,535	—
	Hampshire	3,296	—

Please note that, as of 1 September 2008, the government introduced new arrangements for the registration of childcare providers through the Childcare Act 2006. There are now two registers: the Early Years Register (EYR) and the Childcare Register. The Childcare Register is subdivided into two parts, the compulsory part (CCR) and the voluntary part (VCR). Childcare providers may be registered on any combination of the EYR, CCR and VCR, depending on the age of the children in their care and the type of care offered. Those providers who care for children from birth to the 31 August following their fifth birthday must register on the EYR, unless they are in a category that is exempt from registration. Providers who care for older children who are under eight must be registered on the CCR. Other childcare providers, for example those caring for children over the age of eight, or caring for a child in the child's own home, are not required to register with Ofsted, but may join the VCR.

Ofsted only sets the maximum number of places for childcare provision registered on the EYR and the CCR. Numbers of registered places therefore indicate the maximum number of children aged under eight that may be present at any one time. The figures are not the number of places occupied, nor the number of children who may benefit from receiving places through providers offering sessions at different times of the day.

The maximum number of places figures as at 31 March 2009 were calculated by combining the maximum number of places recorded individually for both the Early Years Register (EYR) and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register (CCR) for each provider. As explained when Ofsted published the March 2009 figures, there is a strong possibility that these figures may be higher than the true overall maximum number of places, due to the duplication of places on both registers for some providers. Ofsted omitted the maximum numbers of childcare places as at 30 June 2009 from the figures published in July 2009, explaining that work was underway to improve the quality of these data. Ofsted will publish the maximum number of childcare places in the next childcare providers and places statistical release in October 2009, and in my Annual Report 2008/09, which will be published in November 2009.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childcare staff had childcare qualifications which were obtained overseas in each of the last five years. [290400]

Mr. Coaker: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff qualifications that are relevant to working with children and young people. The percentage of paid staff in England holding an overseas qualification for each year available is shown in the following table. Information on the number of paid staff is not available.

Table 1: Proportion of all paid staff holding overseas qualifications

			Percentage
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Full day care	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	<0.5	0
Sessional	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5
After school clubs	n/a	<0.5	<0.5
Holiday clubs	n/a	<0.5	<0.5
Childminders	n/a	<0.5	<0.5
Nursery schools	n/a	<0.5	<0.5

Table 1: Proportion of all paid staff holding overseas qualifications

	2005	2006	*Percentage* 2007
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	n/a	1	<0.5
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	n/a	0	<0.5

Notes:
1. Children's centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2006; therefore data are not available for previous years.
2. After school and holiday clubs were sampled differently in 2005 and comparable figures for this year are not available.
3. Early years settings in maintained schools were not included in the 2003 survey.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childminders there were in each region in each quarter of the last year for which figures are available. [290460]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the table.

Number of registered childminders in each quarter of the last year[1]

	As at end:			
Government office region	*August 2008[2]*	*December 2008[3]*	*March 2009*	*June 2009*
East of England	7,700	7,400	7,200	6,900
East Midlands	5,500	5,400	5,300	5,300
Inner London	3,400	3,300	3,300	3,300
Outer London	7,300	7,100	7,100	7,000
North East	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,700
North West England	7,200	7,000	6,900	6,200
South East England	12,300	12,000	11,800	11,700
South West England	5,900	5,700	5,600	5,500
West Midlands	5,500	5,400	5,200	5,100
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,900	5,700	5,600	5,600
England	63,000	61,900	60,900	60,200

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Latest position before new arrangements were introduced in September 2008.
3. First position since new arrangements were introduced in September 2008.
Source:
Ofsted

New Registers, the Early Years Register and the General Childcare Register (including its Voluntary Register), were introduced under the Childcare Act 2006 as part of the Government's reforms to simplify early years regulation and inspection. From 1 September 2008, Ofsted started to record providers in line with these new legal requirements.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of carers in daycare settings for children were male in each year since 1997. [290500]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2007 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that the average proportion of male staff working in full day care settings in England was 2 per cent. In total, there was 2,900 male staff working in full day care settings in England. Data for each year available are shown in the following table.

Table: Male staff working in full day care settings in England

	Average proportion of male staff per setting (%)	*Total number of male staff[1]*
2001	2	1,900
2003	2	2,000
2005	2	2,500
2006	2	2,500
2007	2	2,900

[1] All numbers provided have been rounded. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they are greater than 1,000, to the nearest 50 if the number is 100-999 and to the nearest 10 if the number is below 100.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to ensure an adequate number of free nursery places from autumn 2009. [291524]

Dawn Primarolo: Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a new duty on all local authorities to secure—so far as is reasonably practicable—sufficient child care to meet the needs of parents (in particular those on low incomes or with disabled children) in their area.

Local authorities are also legally required to secure a free Government-funded early education place (currently for 12.5 hours per week over a minimum of 38 weeks per year) for every three and four-year-old in their area. The offer will be extended to 15 hours per week, delivered more flexibly to better suit families' needs, by September 2010. From September 2009, most local authorities, including Coventry, are offering the increased entitlement to 25 per cent. of their most disadvantaged three and four-year-olds, as part of the phasing in of the full extension by 2010.

In addition, the Department is working with Government offices to support all local authorities to roll out an offer of free, Government-funded, early learning and care to 15 per cent. of the most disadvantaged two-year-olds in their area from September 2009.

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the £671,000 grant allocated to Gloucester City Council by his Department from the workplace nurseries capital initiative has been repaid. [292174]

Dawn Primarolo: Gloucestershire local authority was allocated £671,770 capital funding for workplace nurseries in 2008-09. This formed part of the main capital block of the Sure Start, early years and child care grant and contributed to the authority's total allocation of £7,167,636 in that block.

Funding in this block is not ring-fenced and the authority has the freedom to decide how much to spend on each area supported by the grant, in line with local needs and priorities.

Local authorities claim their capital funding quarterly throughout the year and should only claim for what they have spent. The Department then makes adjustments based on audited returns. The audited returns for 2008-09 are not yet due, and therefore we do not have information on how much has been spent by authorities in that year.

The Department allows the carry-forward of unspent capital annually until the end of 2010-11 financial year.

Children: Social Services

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much his Department has allocated to the Together for Children programme in 2010-11; [289308]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to Together for Children *(a)* in each year since its establishment and (b) for 2009-10; [289339]

(3) how much has been allocated to local authorities to employ Serco in supporting the implementation of the Sure Start programme in *(a)* each of the last three years and *(b)* 2010-11. [289307]

Mr. Coaker: Together for Children, a consortium of Serco, Tempus Resourcing Ltd, 4Children and Continyou, was contracted as the Department's delivery partner for Sure Start Children's Centres in October 2006 to provide support to local authorities to plan and deliver their children's centre programmes. The following table gives details of the cost of the contract for each year since its commencement. The costs of the contract are met centrally by the Department. The Department has allocated approximately £7.2 billion to local authorities in capital and revenue funding for Sure Start Children's Centres and predecessor Sure Start Local Programmes since the inception of the programme.

Total cost (excluding VAT)

	(£ million)
2006-07	3.4
2007-08	6.5
2008-09	7.2
2009-10[1]	7.5
2010-11[1]	3.7

[1] Estimated costs on current workplans

Children: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recovery services are available to support child victims of violence, abuse, neglect and maltreatment. [289372]

Dawn Primarolo: Services to support the recovery of child victims of violence or maltreatment are provided by a variety of statutory and third sector organisations. The type of service required will depend on the needs of the child and the way in which the violence or harm may have had an effect on their health and development.

Where the child has been judged to be at continuing risk of significant harm and is the subject of a child protection plan, local authority children's social care has lead responsibility for implementing the plan. In these circumstances, the services required are most likely to be provided by the local authority, health, voluntary and independent sectors.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres have been built in each month of 2009. [289318]

Dawn Primarolo: At the end of July 2009 a total of 135 Sure Start Children's Centres were designated across England in 2009. The following table gives the number of children's centres designated in each month.

Month	*Number of Sure Start Children's Centres delivered*
January	4
February	4
March	93
April	1
May	3
June	18
July	12
Total	135

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of Sure Start Children's Centres to be operational in 2010; [291545]

(2) how many Sure Start Children's Centres have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since the inception of Sure Start centres; [291547]

(3) how much capital his Department has provided for Sure Start children's centres in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since the establishment of Sure Start; [291805]

(4) how many outreach workers have been employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [291546]

Mr. Coaker: We are on track to achieve our target of at least 3,500 Sure Start children's centres by March 2010, offering access to services for all children under five and their families. As of 31 July 2009, there were 3,052 centres operational in England, providing access to services for over 2.4 million children and their families.

The following table gives details of how many centres have opened in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) England in each year since the inception of Sure Start children's centres. To date, no centres have been closed.

Table 1: Children's centres opened

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*England*
2003	0	0	6	59
2004	1	2	25	130
2005	2	1	20	254
2006	1	2	63	604
2007	1	1	33	838
2008	0	1	35	1,029
2009	0	0	5	138
Total	5	7	187	3,052

The Department allocates capital and revenue funding for children's centres and their predecessor Sure Start local programmes to local authorities. It is for local authorities to decide how to allocate funding between individual centres. The following table contains details of the capital allocations for South Tyneside, the North East and England in each of the years since the inception of the Sure Start programme.

Table 2: Capital funding

£

	South Tyneside	*North East*	*England*
1999-2006[1]	5,000,000	61,642,396	479,638,144
2003-04[2]	0	1,500	1,947,523
2004-06	2,209,434	28,138,878	320,870,605
2006-07[3]	634,779	13,226,762	272,254,576
2007-08[3]	1,227,885	24,026,753	545,011,570
2008-09	26,631	4,701,609	81,000,006
2009-10	45,990	3,867,777	109,000,002
2010-11	48,403	2,534,107	100,999,997

[1] The first Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) were set up in 1999-2000. SSLPs received a single capital allocation for the period 1999-2000 to 2005-06.
[2] Sure Start children's centres were introduced from 2003-04. All former SSLPs have now become children's centres. Capital funding for the Sure Start children's centres capital programme was made available from 2003-04.
[3] The 2006-07 and 2007-08 allocations are for the wider main capital block and includes funding for child care sustainability and extended schools, during these years local authorities had the flexibility to decide how much of their total capital allocation to spend on children's centres and were not required to provide a breakdown of the funding provided for children's centres.

From 2006-07 children's centres capital formed part of the wider main capital funding block. From 2008-09 the block comprised funding for children's centres, early years provision, child care and integrated projects. Funding in the main capital block is not ring-fenced and local authorities have the freedom to decide how much of their total capital allocation to spend on children's centres in line with local priorities.

The Department does not collect information on the number of outreach workers employed by children's centres. Staffing levels are a matter for local management by local authorities and their partner agencies.

Children's Centres: Closures

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many child care settings provided as part of a Sure Start children's centre have closed in the last 12 months. [289311]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not collect this information. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring there is sufficient child care for working parents in their areas. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) will continue to support local authorities to carry out their sufficiency duties to ensure that there is an appropriate range of child care provision that meets the needs of different families in each area. We remain committed to ensuring that high quality child care is available for the most disadvantaged families, and children's centres play a pivotal role in supporting this aim.

Children's Centres: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many further Sure Start children's centres are planned for *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire; and when he expects all such centres to be operational. [289421]

Dawn Primarolo: Hertfordshire local authority currently has 51 Sure Start Children's Centres offering services to approximately 42,400 children, with a further 31 planned to be delivered by March 2010 in order to provide universal coverage of children's centre services for children under five and their families. Of the 31 planned centres, four will be located in Dacorum. There are no further centres planned for the Hemel Hempstead constituency.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start children's centres were operating in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire on the latest date for which figures are available. [289635]

Mr. Coaker: As of July 2009 Hertfordshire Local Authority has 51 Sure Start Children's Centres offering services to approximately 42,400 children under five and their families. Of these seven are located in Hemel Hempstead constituency and six in Dacorum.

Children's Centres: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of Sure Start children's centres have *(a)* a full-time manager and *(b)* a manager shared with other children's centres. [289322]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect this information. Local authorities have strategic responsibility for the management of Sure Start Children's Centres and the freedom and flexibility to establish management arrangements that are appropriate to the local context and the needs of their communities, especially taking into account the levels of disadvantage.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has issued any recent guidance on the recommended number of outreach workers employed in each Sure Start children's centre in the most deprived communities. [289323]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest guidance on the recommended number of outreach workers employed in each Sure Start children's centre serving the most deprived communities is in 'Sure Start Children's Centres: Phase 3 Planning and Delivery', issued by the Department in November 2007. This suggests that in the most disadvantaged areas teams should include at least three outreach workers per children's centre. It is for local authorities, working with their children's trust partners, to determine staffing levels in each centre based on an assessment of local needs.

Children's Trusts

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to increase the participation of community and voluntary sector organisations in Children's Trusts. [289600]

Mr. Coaker: The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill 2009 currently before Parliament will enable third sector organisations to become formal members of the Children's Trust Board. Subject to consultation, statutory guidance will make clear that every Children's Trust Board should include third sector representation. Additionally, we propose to require through regulations that the voluntary, private and independent sector must be consulted by the Children's Trust Board on the preparation of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sanctions he will use against partner organisations which do not meet the performance standards for Children's Trusts. [289499]

Dawn Primarolo: Comprehensive area assessment will provide an overview of how successfully local organisations are working individually and together to improve outcomes for children and young people in their area. Where performance standards are unacceptable, the Government will agree appropriate action with the relevant bodies. Where there is critical or sustained underperformance, the Secretary of State has the power to intervene in a local authority (via section 497A of the Education Act 1996 and section 50 of the Children Act 2004).

Class Sizes: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil:teacher ratio maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency has been in each year since 2004-05. [291440]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratio in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each January from 2004 to 2009.

Pupil teacher ratios in local authority maintained[1] primary and secondary schools, January 2004 to 2009, Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency

	Primary	*Secondary*
2004	22.0	14.7
2005	22.2	15.2
2006	21.4	14.8
2007	20.7	14.8
2008	20.7	14.3
2009	20.4	14.3

[1] Excludes academies and city technology colleges. *Source:* School Census

Class Sizes: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size was for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Dacorum (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [289441]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the table.

Average class size[1] of primary and secondary schools, 1997 and 2009, Dacorum

	Primary[2]			*Secondary[2, 3]*		
	Number of pupils	*Number of classes*	*Average class size*	*Number of pupils*	*Number of classes*	*Average class size*
1997	11,440	417	27.4	7,910	390	20.3
2009	10,630	399	26.7	9,120	455	20.1

[1] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes CTCs and academies.
Note:
Pupil numbers rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290536]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Staff may be dismissed for poor performance, poor attendance or misconduct, and the contract of employment terminated. Information for the Department and its predecessors in relation to dismissals for performance, attendance or misconduct is set out in the following table. Totals of less than five are suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

	Number of staff dismissed
2009-10 (to date)	Less than 5
2008-09	7
2007-08	Less than 5
2006-07	Less than 5
2005-06	Less than 5

Staff may also be dismissed in law when a fixed term contract terminates at the end of the contract period and is not renewed is not included in the table. That information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information about the costs of terminating contracts is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Staff who are dismissed do not receive severance.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* mobile telephones and *(b)* Blackberrys were issued to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following the (A) loss or (B) theft of a previous device. [290531]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information as requested is not held centrally within the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). To respond fully would involve an information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departmental Female Staff

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of female senior civil servants in his Department have worked part-time in each year since his Department was established. [289801]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information for the Department since its creation on 28 June 2007 is set out in the following table.

	Number of SCS part-time women	*Proportion (Percentage)*
July 2007 to March 2008	8	14
April 2008 to March 2009	11	16

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff of his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290538]

Mr. Coaker: The information is available within the Department's annual reports on the DCSF website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

The Department offer a range of flexible work arrangements to all employees including compressed hours, flexitime, home working, job sharing, partial retirement, part-time working and part-year working. Employees from Grade 6 to Executive Assistant can work flexitime and employees at Grades 6 and 7 were added to these arrangements from 8 September 2008, however, these arrangements are not available to members of the Senior Civil Service. All employees can agree with their line managers to work from home occasionally and 64 per cent. have broadband access to the Department's systems through authorised encryption.

Records of hours worked are held locally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each Civil Service payband. [290534]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information is as follows:

Pay band	*Estimated average length of employment (years)*
Directors General and above	14.8
Director	17.0
Deputy Director	16.8
Grade 6	16.1
Grade 7	18.0
SEO	17.7
HEO	14.4
EO	15.4
EA	13.5

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292057]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Staffing information for the Department for Children Schools and Families and its predecessor in 1997, Department for Education and Employment, is published on the Civil Service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/index.aspx

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1423W, on departmental marketing, how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [290217]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has one full-time equivalent member of staff responsible for branding activity, employed at a cost of £45,256.75 in 2008-09.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291601]

Mr. Coaker: The data requested was for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). DCSF was established under the machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, therefore the response covers its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

Total spend for hire vehicles during the last five financial years is £618,315.00.

Departmental Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many properties owned by the Department and its predecessors were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the bill for each was in each such year. [290539]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessors has spent the following on business rates in each of the last five years. The Department did not own any properties that were subject to empty property rates during this period.

Business rates

£

Property	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Wales Bar Sheffield	23,028	21,005	18,881	16,699	4,261
Castle View House Runcorn	322,368	320,496	320,961	326,118	309,540
Mowden Hall Darlington	187,335	184,414	[illegible]221	194,028	201,275
Sheffield Nursery	4,788	5,768	6,711	0	0
Moorfoot Sheffield	912,000	1,075,866	1,117,140	939,060	977,130
Total	1,449,519	1,607,549	1,652,914	1,475,905	1,492,206

Departmental Official Hospitality

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on hospitality in the last 12 months. [286389]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 July 2009]*: Details of expenditure on entertainment incurred by the Department are set out as follows:

2008-09: £17,371

This figure shows the cost of personal entertainment incurred directly by Ministers and senior departmental officials in order to further departmental business.

The Department's policy on entertainment is in accordance with the principles of Treasury guidance in "Managing Public Money" and the handbook on "Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money".

Entertainment expenditure is limited to occasions when official business can best be transacted in that way. Personal entertainment, in the form of hospitality, is usually restricted to where senior managers (deputy director or above) are acting as host and expenditure must be approved in advance by a director or executive board member.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 9W, on departmental official hospitality, how much his Department spent on entertainment and hospitality in 2008-09. [290169]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Details of expenditure on entertainment incurred by the Department are set out as follows:

2008-09: £17,371

The figure includes expenditure incurred by Ministers and senior departmental officials. The figure excludes costs incurred as part of official events or formal meetings held to further departmental business which are not separately identifiable on the Department's accounting system.

The Department's policy on entertainment is in accordance with the principles of Treasury guidance in "Managing Public Money" and the handbook on "Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money".

Entertainment expenditure is limited to occasions when official business can best be transacted in that way. Personal entertainment, in the form of hospitality, is usually restricted to where senior managers (deputy director or above) are acting as host and expenditure must be approved in advance by a director or executive board member.

Departmental Part-Time Employment

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in his Department have worked part-time in each year since the Department was established. [289797]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information for the Department since its creation on 28 June 2007 is as follows:

	Number of part-time staff	*Proportion (percentage)*
July 2007 to March 2008	471	15
April 2008 to March 2009	481	15

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff took paternity leave from his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; and what the average length of such leave has been. [290537]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information is set out in the following table:

	Number of staff
2006-07	12
2007-08	14
2008-09	15

Employees in the Department are currently allowed 15 days paternity leave, and before 1 April 2007, it was 10 days.

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290540]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Under the Department's reward and recognition policies[1], employees can receive one or more of the following:

Non-Consolidated Performance Payment

One-off performance payment where an employee below the senior civil service (SCS) is judged to have performed to category level 1 or 2+ or a member of the SCS is judged to have performed to performance groups 1 and 2 levels in the reporting year.

	Staff		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Total (SCS and non SCS) (£ million)*
2004-05	1,447	32	1.5
2005-06	1,408	33	1.8
2006-07	1,235	33	1.9
2007-08	1,669	51	2.1
2008-09	1,603	51	1.9

Instant Reward[2]

One-off payment in the form of a voucher based on staff nomination of any DCSF employee, team or directorate whose actions have demonstrated initiative and significant impact in relation to the departmental priority areas of outcome and people management, customer service or collaborative working

	Staff (number)	*Total (£)*
2007-08	1,095	103,495
2008-09	2,464	151,315

Staff Suggestion scheme

One-off payment for employee ideas judged by the relevant team, based on criteria, to merit a cash reward.

	Staff (number)	*Total (£)*
2004-05	1	50
2005-06	8	250
2006-07	0	0
2007-08	2	75
2008-09	5	200

Long Service Award[3]

For completion of 25 years service where employees are eligible for a gift up to the value of £250, or one week's paid special leave.

	Staff (number)	*Total (£)*
2004-05	—	0
2005-06	—	0
2006-07	19	2,848
2007-08	24	5,750
2008-09	36	9,000

[1] Department for Education and Skills to 27 June 2007 and Department for Children, Schools and Families from 28 June 2007

2 Introduced in July 2007

[3] Based on those employees taking the cash option.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many consultations have been completed by his Department in each year since its establishment. [290199]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was established in June 2007. Completed consultations undertaken since that date are outlined in the following table.

	Consultations completed
2007 (from 28 June)	13
2008	37
2009 (to date)	22

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in the recruitment of employees by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years. [290502]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information on the level of diversity in the recruitment of employees in the Department is available within the external recruitment tables of the Department's annual reports on the DCSF website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289665]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The latest Sustainable Development in Government report for 2007/08 noted 58.9 per cent. of the Department's waste was recycled. Results for the 2008/09 report are currently being evaluated.

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many sick days were taken by staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse of such absences was in each such year. [290533]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government (MOG) changes on 28 June 2007, so the figures apply from 1 July 2007. Sickness absence data for the Department since its inception, including the average number of working days lost, are published on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sicknessabsence/

Due to the wide range of posts and salary points in the Department, the actual cost of those absences could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [290690]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect this information centrally in the form requested. Information on the number of external training courses attended by employees in the last 12 months and the cost of each course is held locally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The criteria for funding any external training courses will be driven by Professional Skills for Government.

Education Maintenance Allowance: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in post-16 education in each local authority area in the East of England were in receipt of education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme was introduced. [289297]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in post-16 education in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* Dacorum are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [289422]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell the LSC's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary schools in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England have had revenue balances in excess of those predicted in each year since 1997; [289462]

(2) how many primary schools in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England have had revenue balances in excess of those predicted in each year since 1997. [289463]

Mr. Coaker: The Department collects figures of the balances held by schools and the amount of revenues raised by schools via the Section 52 Outturn statements. We have collected information on balances since 1999-2000. There are no figures available for previous years. The Section 52 Outturn statements are completed by all local authorities in England and we request only the final figures for the schools in their area. We do not collect predicted figures.

The following table shows the number of schools in Hertfordshire and England that held surplus balances from 1999-2000 to 2007-08. The Department does not hold figures by constituency.

Maintained primary and secondary schools in surplus[1] in England and Hertfordshire local authorities, 1999-2000 to 2007-08[2]

Number

	LA name	*Primary schools in surplus*	*Secondary schools in surplus*
1999-2000	England	16,695	2,700
	Hertfordshire	400	75
2000-01	England	17,138	2,919
	Hertfordshire	421	79
2001-02	England	17,093	2,857
	Hertfordshire	418	76
2002-03	England	16,535	2,693
	Hertfordshire	415	68
2003-04	England	16,187	2,756
	Hertfordshire	403	67
2004-05	England	16,506	2,834
	Hertfordshire	413	73
2005-06	England	16,302	2,745
	Hertfordshire	396	79
2006-07	England	16,213	2,740
	Hertfordshire	398	79
2007-08	England	16,276	2,829
	Hertfordshire	401	76

[1] A school's total revenue balance is calculated from the combination of any unspent allocations (including unspent Standards Fund grants) and the cumulative balance of income less expenditure from revenue funding sources during the financial year and any balances carried forward from previous years. This is drawn by adding together the unspent allocations and balance carried forward columns from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements 1999-2000 to 2001-02 (Table 2), Consistent Financial Reporting categories B01 and B02 from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements (Table B) 2002-03 to 2005-06 and Consistent Financial Reporting categories B01, B02 and B06 from local authorities Section 52 Outturn Statements (Table B) 2006-07 onwards.

[2] School level revenue balances are not available prior to the inception of Section 52 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

In February 2009, we published the figures for balances and deficits held by schools for the financial year 2007-08. Last month, the Department began receiving submissions from local authorities providing information for 2008-09. The Department is now in the process of confirming and clarifying this information and we expect to publish the figures for balances and deficits held by schools for the financial year 2008-09 in 2010.

Education: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital expenditure from the public purse there has been in the education sector in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* Dacorum since 1997. [289423]

Mr. Coaker: The Department allocates much of its capital resources to local authority areas. Information by constituency or for Dacorum only is not held centrally. Support for capital investment in schools in Hertfordshire is shown in the table.

Financial year	*Schools (£ million)*
1997-98	12.0
1998-99	14.9
1999-2000	15.2
2000-01	36.7
2001-02	32.1
2002-03	56.7
2003-04	55.2
2004-05	75.7
2005-06	78.2
2006-07	68.0
2007-08	65.9
2008-09	[1]68.2
2009-10	[1]88.6
2010-11	[1]48.0

[1] Includes Primary Capital Programme. Figures reflect capital allocations brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 as part of the fiscal stimulus initiative.

In addition, Hertfordshire has a Building Schools for the Future wave 4 project with an indicative allocation of £134.5 million of conventional funding and £148.2 million of PFI credits.

Education: Internet

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has allocated for the provision of online learning grids; and through which bodies such funding is paid. [289599]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The DCSF does not provide any dedicated funding to schools or local authorities that must be spent on the provision of online learning grids.

Education: Travelling People

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department and its agencies have provided for local authorities on the priority admission of children of Travellers to state schools. [290285]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The School Admissions Code, which came into force on 10 February 2009, provides statutory guidance on the application and allocation of school places for all admission authorities in England.

Local authorities are required to maintain Fair Access Protocols to ensure that access to education is secured quickly for children who have no school place but for whom a place at a mainstream school or alternative provision is appropriate. Children of Travellers, who may have difficulty securing a school place, are covered in the Fair Access Protocols.

Educational Visits: Vetting

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department provides on overseas exchange visits for children of school age, with particular reference to whether Criminal Records Bureau checks should be undertaken for *(a)* British families having contact with children and *(b)* overseas families who have contact with visiting British children. [292146]

Dawn Primarolo: Chapter 4 of the "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" guidance, which came into force on 1 January 2007, sets out the Department's strong recommendation that volunteers who help regularly with activities associated with the school or further education college and are in unsupervised contact with children, including new host families who provide care for students from overseas, should be CRB checked.

Under the new vetting and barring scheme those who provide care and accommodation for children under 18 for reward or by arrangement made outside the family will be engaged in 'regulated activity', and this is made clear in interim guidance the Government are issuing today about the new scheme. This means that in a two parent family, both parents will have to register with the scheme. Further guidance about registration with the ISA, which begins in summer 2010, will be produced in due course. We cannot impose this requirement on host families in other countries who provide care for British children.

However schools should satisfy themselves that adequate safeguarding arrangements have been put in place to protect children.

Employment Tribunal Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times his Department and its predecessors have been taken to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; what the reason cited in each case was; and in how many cases the tribunal found in favour of the *(a)* employee and *(b)* Department. [290535]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has defended one case in each of the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 in employment tribunal hearings. The tribunal found in favour of the Department and predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, in both cases. Information for 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Further details on the above cases are suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children obtained GCSEs at grade C or above in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* a modern language, *(d)* history, *(e)* physics, *(f)* chemistry and *(g)* biology in each year between 1997 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [285459]

Mr. Coaker: The proportion of children who achieved a grade C or above in each of the specified subjects at key stage 4, from 1997 to 2008, are shown in the following table. The figures provided show the proportion of all pupils who achieved a grade C or above, regardless of how many pupils were entered for the GCSE in question.

The number of pupils sitting a modern language GCSE has fallen since languages ceased to be compulsory at KS4 in 2004. However, for those sitting a GCSE, the proportion achieving a grade C or above has risen from 48 per cent. in 1997 to 69 per cent. in 2008.

Percentage

Subject	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
English	50	51	53	54	54	55	56	56	58	59	60	61
Mathematics	43	43	45	46	48	49	48	50	52	53	55	55
History	20	19	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21
Sciences												
Physics	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	10
Chemistry	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	10
Biology	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	8	10
Single Award Science	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	n/a
Double Award Science	36	37	38	39	40	40	40	40	40	39	39	n/a
Science	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45
Additional science	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	37
Languages												
French	25	26	27	27	27	27	24	23	23	21	19	18
German	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	11	10	9	8	8
Spanish	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	6
Other modern language	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Figures in recent years are for all pupils at the end of key stage 4, figures prior to 2005 are for all 15-year-old pupils.
2. 2005 figures are available for 15-year-olds as well as for pupils at the end of key stage 4. A comparison of the two has shown the change in coverage does not affect the result by more than one percentage point in any of the given subjects.

Detailed figures for 2008 can be found in the following Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2007/08 (Revised) at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/SFR02_2009_AdditionalTables_Amended030309-2.xls (table 11)

GCSE/Further Education

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of children living in a two-parent household gained 5 GCSEs at grade A* to C in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [290044]

(2) what percentage of children living in a single-parent household with their *(a)* mother and *(b)* father gained 5 GCSEs at grade A* to C in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [290045]

(3) what percentage of children living in a two-parent household went on to study *(a)* for A-levels and *(b)* for a university course in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [290046]

(4) what percentage of children living in a single-parent household with their *(a)* mother and *(b)* father went on to study (i) for A-levels and (ii) for a university course in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [290047]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not hold administrative data on the attainment and progression in learning of young people by household characteristics for each year since 1997, but it does hold survey-based estimates of GCSE results and progression to A-level for the years 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006, and for progression to Higher Education in the years 2001, 2003 and 2005.

Table 1 is derived from the Youth Cohort Study (data from 1999 to 2006) and the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (2006 only). It shows the proportion of young people in England from two-parent, lone father, and lone mother households who achieved 5 GCSEs at A*-C in the years 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2006.

Table 1

	Percentage gaining 5 GCSEs (inc equivalents) at A—C by Year 11 in given year*							
	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Two parents	52	—	56	—	57	—	—	64
Father only	40	—	32	—	34	—	—	42
Mother only	40	—	39	—	41	—	—	47

Notes:

1. Data relate to England and Wales, however, 2006 relates to England only.
2. Cases which are missing, not applicable, refused, not stated, or not known are excluded.

Source:

YCS Cohorts 10, 11, 12, 13; LSYPE Wave 4.

Tables 2a and 2b overleaf are derived from the Youth Cohort Study and the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England. They show:

(a) The proportion of young people from two-parent lone-father and lone-mother families who went of to study A-levels (AS or A2) at the age (academic) of 16.

(b) The proportion of young people from two-parent, lone-father and lone-mother families who began a full-time Higher Education course at the age (academic) of 18.

Table 2a

	Percentage studying for A-levels (AS or A2) at academic age 16							
	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Two parents	44	—	48	—	51	—	—	53
Father only	32	—	24	—	30	—	—	34
Mother only	33	—	33	—	35	—	—	40

Notes:
1. Data relate to England and Wales, however data for 2006 relates to England only.
2. Cases which are missing, not applicable, refused, not stated, or not known are excluded.

Source:
YCS Cohorts 10, 11, 12, 13; LSYPE Wave 4

Table 2b

	Percentage studying full-time HE at academic age 18				
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Two parents	27	—	30	—	33
Father only	19	—	15	—	20
Mother only	20	—	18	—	23

Notes:
1. Data relate to England and Wales
2. Cases which are missing, not applicable, refused, not stated, or not known are excluded.

Source:
YCS Cohorts 10, 11, 12

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 9 June 2009, on adoption. [289866]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Baroness Morgan of Drefelin replied to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 13 August, 2009.

OFSTED: Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. [289845]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) publish central Government Departments' Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings (building by building level) on their website accessible via the following link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/government_delivery_display_energy_certificate_data.asp

DEC reference numbers for each building can be used to view each advisory report accessible via the following link:

http://www.ndepcregister.com/home.html

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Steiner nurseries have applied for exemption from the Early Years Foundation Stage since September 2008. [289316]

Dawn Primarolo: As of 21 August 2009, 18 Steiner Waldorf settings have applied for exemptions from and/or modifications of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Two Steiner Waldorf settings have completed the exemptions process. Both applicants have been granted modifications and/or exemptions from the EYFS Learning and Development requirements.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries and *(b)* Sure Start children's centres had at least one member of staff with Early Years professional status in each year for which figures are available. [289317]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of children achieved the national standard in each of the Foundation Stage Profile assessments in each year for which information is available; [289324]

(2) how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* each region and *(b)* England have been working securely within each of the 13 assessment scales of the Foundation Stage Assessment Profiles in England in each year since 2005. [290200]

Mr. Coaker: The information available for 2006 to 2008 is shown in table 3a of Statistical First Release 25/2008, available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000812/index.shtml

The information available for 2005 is shown in table 3a of Statistical First Release 32/2007, available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000752/index.shtml

The information available for 2007 and 2008 can be found in tables B and C of the additional Local Authority and Government Office Region tables of Statistical First Release 32/2007, available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000752/index.shtml

and 25/2008, (available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000812/index.shtml

respectively.

The information available for 2005 and 2006 can be found in table B of the additional local authority tables of SFR 03/2006, available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000634/index.shtml

and SFR 03/2007, (available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000704/index.shtml

respectively.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in the 30 per cent most deprived areas have been working securely within each of the 13 assessment scales of the Foundation Stage Assessment Profiles in England in each year since 2005. [290201]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 656W.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funds his Department has made available to increase the early years entitlement to 25 hours per week from September 2009. [289313]

Dawn Primarolo: From September 2009, all local authorities will roll out an extended 15-hour, flexible, free, early education entitlement to their most disadvantaged children. A year later the rollout will be completed, with every three and four-year-old eligible to receive 15 hours early education free per week, to be delivered more flexibly in response to parental demand.

£590 million has been made available over 2008-11 to fund the additional 2.5 hours per week of provision and more flexible delivery. This funding is over and above that which local authorities currently receive through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for a 12 and a half hour free entitlement.

Over the same period, £642 million capital funding has been made available to improve the quality and capacity of child care in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector, to help deliver the extension of the 15 hours free entitlement for three and four-year-olds and equip settings with facilities for children with disabilities so there are no barriers for any child accessing child care.

The Government have also committed, from 2011, to funding the cost of all children starting school in the September after their fourth birthday, and the full-time costs (up to 25 hours per week) of those children whose parents would prefer them to be in private or voluntary early years provision.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* childminders and *(b)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries have received funding from the Early Years Capital Grant. [289315]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not collected on the number and proportion of early years and child care providers who have received funding from the Early Years Capital Grant.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of private, voluntary and independent nurseries have received funding from local authorities to deliver the free early years entitlement in each local authority in each year since 2004. [289799]

Dawn Primarolo: The Early Years Census collects information from local authorities on Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) providers delivering the free entitlement. All PVI providers returned in the Early Years Census will receive Dedicated Schools Grant funding from their local authority. Table 1 shows the number of PVI providers recorded on the Early Years Census as delivering the free entitlement from 2004-2009 in each local authority area.

The number of PVI providers not delivering the free entitlement is not known.

Table 1: Number of private, voluntary and independent providers that received funding to deliver the free entitlement, position in January each year

Local authority area	2004[1]	2005[1]	2006[1]	2007[1]	2008[2]	2009[2]
City of London	7	7	7	6	4	4
Camden	88	79	86	86	85	83
Greenwich	62	63	66	64	64	66
Hackney	85	94	94	84	95	95
Hammersmith and Fulham	63	64	67	66	65	64
Islington	80	78	77	75	71	64
Kensington and Chelsea	47	49	46	44	43	40
Lambeth	100	77	112	107	110	109
Lewisham	99	85	103	95	89	89
Southwark	95	104	101	95	90	86
Tower Hamlets	56	54	56	52	53	51
Wandsworth	130	115	131	124	120	122
Westminster	62	50	61	56	62	67
Barking and Dagenham	27	30	31	33	36	38
Barnet	122	125	121	114	111	114
Bexley	61	65	64	66	68	70
Brent	80	87	86	85	87	84
Bromley	159	152	169	158	159	158
Croydon	128	142	138	141	139	145
Ealing	95	104	106	101	101	98
Enfield	95	99	104	103	107	105
Haringey	55	74	70	70	70	68
Harrow	74	80	74	76	79	78
Havering	85	88	92	94	98	94
Hillingdon	78	74	72	75	73	71
Hounslow	65	69	72	72	62	70
Kingston upon Thames	46	51	52	49	50	52
Merton	54	63	63	59	61	63
Newham	56	54	58	54	60	58
Redbridge	76	78	78	80	79	81
Richmond upon Thames	98	104	106	101	103	104
Sutton	69	68	69	64	62	61
Waltham Forest	72	72	74	70	65	66
Birmingham	332	344	360	341	358	361
Coventry	99	106	105	111	109	111
Dudley	83	87	87	79	80	80
Sandwell	39	47	46	50	50	56
Solihull	66	70	70	77	83	84
Walsall	31	30	33	34	34	37
Wolverhampton	29	31	39	34	30	30
Knowsley	14	13	17	18	17	17
Liverpool	125	124	129	129	119	118
St. Helens	53	53	54	52	51	52
Sefton	73	75	76	77	76	74
Wirral	118	124	130	119	119	119
Bolton	86	83	89	83	84	84
Bury	56	57	66	67	64	63
Manchester	117	116	122	120	120	124
Oldham	92	101	94	94	90	87
Rochdale	88	89	88	86	79	82
Salford	55	64	65	68	67	71
Stockport	81	83	88	84	82	85
Tameside	48	52	53	49	47	49

Table 1: Number of private, voluntary and independent providers that received funding to deliver the free entitlement, position in January each year

Local authority area	*2004*[1]	*2005*[1]	*2006*[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[2]	*2009*[2]
Trafford	75	81	82	84	76	85
Wigan	99	94	92	87	90	89
Barnsley	50	60	61	61	60	62
Doncaster	57	70	72	71	69	66
Rotherham	57	58	55	56	59	60
Sheffield	141	145	150	150	134	139
Bradford	127	134	136	127	129	128
Calderdale	90	91	97	103	101	99
Kirklees	177	182	188	179	184	183
Leeds	174	183	187	181	183	190
Wakefield	61	69	63	59	62	60
Gateshead	47	50	44	44	44	46
Newcastle	76	76	77	74	75	80
North Tyneside	27	26	27	28	28	28
South Tyneside	12	12	13	13	12	11
Sunderland	30	35	32	32	30	31
Isles of Scilly	2	3	3	2	2	2
Bath and North East Somerset	90	88	86	84	84	84
City of Bristol	116	134	137	129	121	121
North Somerset	96	102	101	101	99	99
South Gloucestershire	141	129	140	140	137	140
Hartlepool	10	14	13	11	10	11
Middlesbrough	19	27	30	27	27	26
Redcar and Cleveland	17	15	15	12	11	10
Stockton on Tees	25	31	28	25	27	26
Kingston upon Hull	57	55	57	58	54	57
East Riding of Yorkshire	131	112	131	127	127	124
NE Lincolnshire	48	44	43	42	42	43
North Lincolnshire	55	61	61	58	59	56
North Yorkshire	303	299	318	306	306	305
York	88	90	98	93	86	85
Bedfordshire	180	185	183	177	175	177
Luton	58	64	62	62	60	60
Buckinghamshire	262	271	271	272	270	272
Milton Keynes	112	117	110	110	111	113
Derbyshire	286	280	286	284	287	284
Derby	64	72	69	68	66	67
Dorset	210	217	217	212	206	203
Poole	63	52	56	57	57	56
Bournemouth	74	82	86	86	80	79
Durham	77	78	78	80	83	86
Darlington	24	25	26	27	29	30
East Sussex	268	275	259	256	254	247
Brighton and Hove	95	104	109	113	110	109
Hampshire	659	687	657	657	661	663
Portsmouth	84	90	92	89	87	85
Southampton	78	98	91	88	86	86
Leicestershire	340	359	350	350	343	344
Leicester	107	118	123	120	121	121
Rutland	27	27	28	26	25	25
Staffordshire	342	303	376	369	365	391
Stoke-on-Trent	58	67	68	66	64	65
Wiltshire	291	296	295	292	291	277
Swindon	77	81	79	79	78	78
Bracknell Forest	52	51	49	49	48	49
Windsor and Maidenhead	68	72	74	75	74	76
West Berkshire	74	81	80	78	77	79
Reading	52	55	54	56	53	53
Slough	21	19	21	22	24	23
Wokingham	70	71	71	71	71	72
Cambridgeshire	293	309	303	299	296	294
City of Peterborough	96	97	99	96	92	91
Cheshire	331	338	347	345	346	345
Halton	55	54	55	50	50	49
Warrington	71	75	71	73	71	69
Devon	406	400	397	401	400	400
City of Plymouth	114	110	109	109	103	102
Torbay	45	46	41	40	39	39
Essex	620	644	641	636	635	636
Southend-on-Sea	78	67	76	72	74	74
Thurrock	52	51	51	51	50	50
Herefordshire	105	110	102	102	98	97
Worcestershire	284	294	297	283	300	296
Kent	724	726	711	732	678	673
Medway	125	130	123	116	111	106
Lancashire	460	466	474	484	463	478
Blackburn with Darwen	51	54	49	46	46	49
Blackpool	54	54	55	55	54	53
Nottinghamshire	245	252	254	253	251	247
City of Nottingham	72	78	77	75	74	69
Shropshire	176	176	174	169	168	168
Telford and Wrekin	62	64	70	62	61	62
Cornwall	273	283	294	285	285	284
Cumbria	163	180	186	186	182	179
Gloucestershire	378	379	385	364	326	359
Hertfordshire	432	456	458	465	466	470
Isle of Wight	58	60	62	59	57	56
Lincolnshire	286	305	303	299	289	292
Norfolk	380	341	384	367	361	348
Northamptonshire	286	306	321	321	324	316
Northumberland	86	91	86	89	87	84
Oxfordshire	330	346	347	333	334	326
Somerset	322	303	340	320	312	305
Suffolk	333	335	335	327	317	315
Surrey	544	562	565	554	542	537
Warwickshire	233	242	241	240	245	242
West Sussex	390	425	442	428	409	409
Total	19,938	20,423	20,799	20,432	20,160	20,187

[1] Data based on aggregate local authority funding return.

[2] Data based on child-level Early Years Census return.

Source:
Early Years Census

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* Sure Start, *(b)* Early Years and *(c)* Childcare Grant allocations has been retained by each local authority in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what the total (i) revenue and (ii) capital allocation was in each case. [290451]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authorities do not retain unspent allocation of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant (SSEYCG). The Department claws back any unspent allocation of revenue following receipt of audited statements of expenditure. The Department also does this for capital allocations but offers carry-forward of unspent capital each year until the end of March 2011 (2010-11 financial year).

The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries. The SSEYCG allocations for each local authority for the last three years are given in Table 1. The spend by local authorities for the last three years for which figures are available are given in Table 2.

The SSEYCG is not divided into the three categories of *(a)* Sure Start, *(b)* Early Years and *(c)* Childcare Grant and local authorities do not report on that basis. The SSEYCG is made up of broad ring-fenced blocks.

In 2009-10 there were nine blocks: Main Revenue, Sure Start Local Programmes, Disabled Children's Access to Childcare, Two-year-olds Offer, 0 to seven Partnerships Pilots, Work Focused Services, Aiming High for Disabled Children Revenue, Main Capital and Aiming High for Disabled Children Capital. The grant structure is detailed in the Memorandum of Grant which was sent to local authorities' chief executives and directors of children's services on 19 February 2009.

Primary Capital Programme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much is planned to be spent under the Primary Capital Programme in each local authority in 2009-10. [292166]

Mr. Coaker: The amount planned to be spent under the Primary Capital Programme in each local authority in 2009-10 is set out in the following table. This includes the main allocation as well as advances from 2010-11 that some authorities applied for. A few allocations may be subject to re-phasing into next year, dependent upon local spend patterns of spending.

Local Authority	*Main*	*£000 Advance*
Barking and Dagenham	3,741	—
Barnet	4,303	2,500
Barnsley	3,419	—
Bath and North East Somerset	3,000	—
Bedfordshire	3,436	—
Bexley	3,032	—
Birmingham	18,274	—
Blackburn with Darwen	3,177	—
Blackpool	3,000	—
Bolton	4,013	—
Bournemouth	3,000	—
Bracknell Forest	3,000	1,000
Bradford	7,531	1,860
Brent	4,655	—
Brighton and Hove	3,075	—
Bristol, City of	4,899	7,277
Bromley	3,459	—
Buckinghamshire	4,035	—
Bury	3,000	—
Calderdale	3,148	—
Cambridgeshire	4,969	—
Camden	3,503	—
Cheshire	6,025	—
Cornwall	4,797	3,000
Coventry	4,524	4,890
Croydon	4,937	—
Cumbria	4,994	—
Darlington	3,000	—
Derby	3,786	—
Derbyshire	7,038	—
Devon	5,840	6,000
Doncaster	4,229	—
Dorset	3,000	—
Dudley	4,202	—
Durham	6,016	—
Ealing	4,704	4,182
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,303	—
East Sussex	4,529	—
Enfield	5,057	—
Essex	10,643	—
Gateshead	3,125	5,503
Gloucestershire	4,988	—
Greenwich	4,652	1,958
Hackney	4,551	2,000
Halton	3,000	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,159	—
Hampshire	9,447	—
Haringey	4,790	—
Harrow	3,395	4,000
Hartlepool	3,000	2,000
Havering	3,000	—
Herefordshire	3,000	—
Hertfordshire	8,694	—
Hillingdon	3,893	—
Hounslow	3,633	—
Isle of Wight	3,000	—
Islington	4,051	—
Kensington and Chelsea	3,000	—
Kent	11,438	—
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	3,446	—
Kingston upon Thames	3,000	1,000
Kirklees	5,064	—
Knowsley	3,449	—
Lambeth	4,900	—
Lancashire	10,460	—
Leeds	8,374	—
Leicester	4,954	7,332
Le[illegible]ire	5,042	—
[illegible]	4,361	1,000
Lin[illegible]	5,398	1,000
Liverpool	7,091	2,000
Luton	3,650	6,028
Manchester	9,141	—
Medway	3,404	—
Merton	3,000	—
Middlesbrough	3,202	—
Milton Keynes	3,269	—
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,205	—
Newham	6,010	8,388
Norfolk	7,611	—
North East Lincolnshire	3,000	775
North Lincolnshire	3,000	—
North Somerset	3,000	5,378
North Tyneside	3,000	—

		£000
Local Authority	*Main*	*Advance*
North Yorkshire	4,794	—
Northamptonshire	5,699	8,077
Northumberland	3,000	—
Nottingham	4,561	—
Nottinghamshire	7,177	—
Oldham	4,196	—
Oxfordshire	5,167	—
Peterborough	3,000	—
Plymouth	3,308	—
Poole	3,000	—
Portsmouth	3,000	—
Reading	3,000	—
Redbridge	4,005	3,643
Redcar and Cleveland	3,000	2,588
Richmond upon Thames	3,000	—
Rochdale	3,811	—
Rotherham	3,840	—
Rutland	3,000	—
Salford	4,147	—
Sandwell	4,825	—
Sefton	3,618	—
Sheffield	5,923	—
Shropshire	3,038	—
Slough	3,000	—
Solihull	3,000	—
Somerset	4,220	—
South Gloucestershire	3,000	—
South Tyneside	3,000	—
Southampton	3,241	—
Southend-on-Sea	3,000	—
Southwark	5,051	—
St. Helens	3,040	—
Staffordshire	6,816	—
Stockport	3,304	—
Stockton-on-Tees	3,066	—
Stoke-on-Trent	4,178	—
Suffolk	5,172	—
Sunderland	4,092	—
Surrey	7,494	—
Sutton	3,000	—
Swindon	3,000	—
Tameside	3,378	—
Telford and Wrekin	3,000	—
Thurrock	3,000	5,200
Torbay	3,000	—
Tower Hamlets	6,556	2,000
Trafford	3,000	—
Wakefield	4,192	—
Walsall	4,358	—
Waltham Forest	4,242	—
Wandsworth	3,899	—
Warrington	3,000	—
Warwickshire	4,796	500
West Berkshire	3,000	—
West Sussex	5,407	2,000
Westminster	3,166	—
Wigan	3,894	—
Wiltshire	3,965	—
Windsor and Maidenhead	3,000	—
Wirral	4,838	—
Wokingham	3,000	—
Wolverhampton	3,949	—
Worcestershire	4,525	—
York	3,000	—
Total	647,998	106,579

Primary Capital Programme: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* North Yorkshire have participated in the Primary Capital Programme in 2009. [291694]

Mr. Coaker: Funding for the national roll out of the Primary Capital Programme commenced in April 2009. It follows that very few of the projects to be funded wholly or partly through the programme have actually commenced on site at this stage. I am pleased to confirm, however, that North Yorkshire's county council's Primary Strategy for Change has been approved and funding of £11:97 million to support local delivery over the two year period 2009-11 has been duly confirmed. Decisions about the prioritisation of individual projects are rightly matters for local determination. My officials have been advised following inquiries made to officers at North Yorkshire that building work is expected to commence shortly at the following schools:

Norton Community Primary School

Hinderwell Community Primary School

Barrowcliffe Community Primary School

Friarage Community Primary School

Although none of these schools are located in the Vale of York constituency, the programme aims to support local authorities in renewing around half of all primary schools by 2023. More detailed information about the work planned can be obtained from the local authority.

Primary Education: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the £200 million allocated to provide additional primary school places in areas with shortages announced on 15 July 2009 will affect funding for new primary provision in areas which have surplus places. [288867]

Mr. Coaker: On 15 July, we announced that we would make up to £200 million available for authorities which are experiencing and forecasting exceptionally high rates of growth in demand for reception places to 2011, to support the provision of permanent places where there is greatest need. Our guidance on this funding includes that authorities which do not have high growth in reception class demand overall, may still apply where they have areas within their borders where there is high growth. We would, however, expect authorities which have high levels of surplus places to justify why these cannot be used to accommodate the additional children.

Primary Education: Free School Meals

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans he has to extend his Department's free school meals pilot to all primary school-age children; [292378]

(2) which local authorities applied to participate in his Department's pilot scheme for free school meals. [292379]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We have no plans to extend the free school meals pilots to all primary school-age children. Pilots in Newham and Durham started this term to test the case for extending free school meals for all primary children and we will want to learn the lessons of those pilots before making decisions on any national extension.

We invited all local authorities and primary care trusts who felt they met the criteria specified to be a pilot area to express an interest in taking part in the pilots. Expressions were received from the following authorities: Barking and Dagenham; Barnsley; Blackburn and Darwen; Bolton; Brighton and Hove; Bristol; Cornwall; Croydon; Dudley; Durham; Gateshead; Halton; Haringey; Hillingdon; Isle of Wight; Kent; Knowsley; Liverpool; Luton; Newham; North Tyneside; Oldham; Reading; Rotherham; Sandwell; Sheffield; Sunderland; Telford and Wrekin; Waltham Forest; Wakefield; West Sussex; Wigan; and Wolverhampton.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of children living in a two-parent household were permanently excluded from school in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [290048]

(2) what percentage of children living in a single-parent household with their *(a)* mother and *(b)* father were permanently excluded from school in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [290049]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not collect data on household background of excluded pupils. The latest available information on exclusions was recently published at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

However, we recognise the importance of parental engagement in their children's learning and that there is a range of evidence that parental relationship breakdown, leading to conflict, has a negative impact on child outcomes. Our aim is to improve outcomes for children by preventing family breakdown where possible and by minimising the negative effects of parental separation on children's well-being.

The Children's Plan: Progress Report, published in December 2008, further outlined Ministers' strategy for improving parents' engagement in children's learning and development through providing direct support for parents and mainstreaming parental engagement in all our policy interventions including children's centres, 21st century schools, National and City Challenges, the workforce strategy, and parenting support programmes.

Pupils: Drugs

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* evaluate the implementation of the revised Managing Medicines in Schools guidance. [289696]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This Department is committed to revising its Managing Medicines in Schools guidance as announced in the Child Health Strategy. It will be for schools to develop their own implementation plans working with local delivery partners to establish how best to support the needs of pupils with a long-term medical condition and it will be for schools to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of their implementation.

Pupils: Epilepsy

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will collect information on *(a)* levels of epilepsy in schools and *(b)* educational attainment of pupils with epilepsy. [291019]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: The School Census collects data on the numbers of children with special educational needs (SEN) and we publish data on their educational attainment. For those children at School Action Plus or with a statement, data are collected on their primary need in 12 categories. The latest figures can be found in Special Educational Needs in England: January 2009 (SFR14/2009)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/index.shtml

There is not a specific category for children with epilepsy, although where they have a special educational need, they will be captured in the overall SEN figures.

In the joint Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health publication "Healthy Lives: Brighter Futures, The strategy for children and young people's health" (February 2009),

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094400

we provided an estimate of the number of children with epilepsy in an average Primary Care Trust area:

> "In an average-sized health community, with a population of around 80,000 children and young people up to the age of 18...over 300 will have epilepsy."

Pupils: Languages

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools had English as an additional language in (i) Basingstoke, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years. [290803]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the table.

Primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English

	Pupils of compulsory school age and above			
	Primary schools[2]		Secondary schools[2,3]	
	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[4]	Number of pupils	Percentage of pupils[4]
England				
2000	311,310	8.7	256,430	8.0
2001	331,510	9.3	259,940	8.0
2002	350,480	10.0	283,340	8.6
2003	364,940	10.5	294,300	8.8
2004	376,600	11.0	296,900	8.9
2005	395,270	11.6	303,920	9.1

Primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English

	Pupils of compulsory school age and above			
	Primary schools[2]		*Secondary schools[2,3]*	
	Number of pupils	*Percentage of pupils[4]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of pupils[4]*
2006	419,600	12.5	320,360	9.6
2007	447,650	13.5	352,970	10.6
2008	466,420	14.3	349,040	10.6
2009	492,390	15.2	364,200	11.1
Hampshire				
2000	1,100	1.3	660	0.9
2001	1,060	1.2	690	1.0
2002	1,080	1.2	800	1.1
2003	1,300	1.5	960	1.6
2004	1,630	1.9	1,050	1.4
2005	1,670	2.0	1,150	1.6
2006	2,010	2.4	1,640	2.0
2007	2,490	3.0	1,770	2.5
2008	2,790	3.4	2,070	2.9
2009	3,040	3.8	2,340	3.2
Basingstoke				
2000	140	1.6	110	1.8
2001	150	1.9	110	1.8
2002	190	2.2	120	1.9
2003	240	2.9	100	1.6
2004	260	3.1	170	2.6
2005	300	3.5	160	2.6
2006	360	4.4	200	3.2
2007	420	5.2	270	4.2
2008	510	6.3	310	5.2
2009	570	7.1	390	6.1

[1] Pupils of compulsory school age and above were classified by first language. Excludes dual registrations.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes CTCs and Academies.
[4] The number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the funding allocation per *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school pupil was in each local authority area in the East of England in each of the last five years. [293396]

Mr. Coaker: The per pupil revenue funding figures for primary and secondary schools pupils for East of England local authorities in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding—EFS plus grants

£

	Primary pupils (3-10 years)		*Secondary pupils (11-15 years)*	
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bedfordshire	3,637	3,861	4,634	4,809
Luton	4,122	4,379	5,260	5,484
Cambridgeshire	3,616	3,839	4,436	4,641
Peterborough	3,931	4,157	4,935	5,138
Essex	3,733	3,922	4,708	4,945
Southend-on-Sea	3,806	4,003	4,854	5,035
Thurrock	3,907	4,136	5,225	5,387
Hertfordshire	3,663	3,828	4,627	4,738
Norfolk	3,697	3,919	4,547	4,709
Suffolk	3,695	3,886	4,397	4,545

Notes:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 June 2009.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3-15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the new Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above, this does not represent the totality of "education" funding in that year.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 (baseline) to 2008-09 for East of England local authorities are provided in the following table.

The figures for 2009-10 are not currently available as figures for grants at a local authority level are still in the process of being finalised. The figures for 2009-10 will be available later in the financial year.

As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. The figures below are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding—DSG plus grants

£

	All pupils (3-19 years)			
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bedfordshire	4,073	4,109	4,318	4,413
Luton	4,523	4,716	4,906	4,957
Cambridgeshire	3,932	4,070	4,201	4,281
Peterborough	4,392	4,533	4,604	4,790
Essex	4,117	4,228	4,362	4,447

Real terms revenue funding—DSG plus grants

£

	All pupils (3-19 years)			
	2005-06[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Southend-on-Sea	4,320	4,445	4579	4,634
Thurrock	4,270	4,477	4,655	4,690
Hertfordshire	4,146	4,234	4,302	4,394
Norfolk	4,090	4,192	4,340	4,405
Suffolk	3,957	4,080	4,249	4,323

[1] Baseline.

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 June 2009.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average expenditure per pupil was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Dacorum (i) in 1997 and (ii) the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [289442]

Mr. Coaker: Figures are not available for Dacorum borough council as data are collected at top tier local authority level. The available information on the average expenditure per pupil in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Hertfordshire local authority is shown in the following table:

	1997-98		*2007-08*	
	Pre-primary and primary education	*Secondary education*	*Primary education*	*Secondary education*
England	1,740	2,340	3,580	4,630
Hertfordshire	1,760	2,520	3,510	4,490

Notes:

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the CLG to the Section 52 form from the DCSF. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. From 2002-03 school based expenditure is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table A line 53 net current expenditure (NCE). For 2001-02 and earlier years the expenditure is calculated as lines 1 to 12 less lines 29, 30, 35 and 37. This differs from the old Net Institutional Expenditure (NIE) calculation only in the treatment of meals and milk which is no longer excluded and no adjustments for balances are now made. This is taken from Section 52 Outturn Table 3 for 1999-2000 to 2001-02 and from the RO1 form previously.
3. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years.
4. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
5. Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.
6. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.
7. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 and cash terms figures.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to parents on the terms under which crèches can voluntarily register with Ofsted under the provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. [286935]

Dawn Primarolo: The voluntary part of the General Childcare Register was introduced in April 2007, under the provisions of the Childcare Act 2006. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has distributed 5,400 copies of a leaflet about the voluntary register to parents and childcare providers through the Family Information Services of all local authorities. Parents can also find information on the voluntary part of the General Childcare Register on the Ofsted website at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare

Schools: Asbestos

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will commission a national audit to determine the *(a)* extent, *(b)* type and *(c)* condition of asbestos in school buildings; [289818]

(2) if he will commission a national audit to determine the standards of asbestos management in respect of school buildings. [289819]

Mr. Coaker: In January 2009 DCSF sent out a questionnaire about the management of asbestos in system-built schools to local authorities to confirm that the school duty holders were managing asbestos correctly. DCSF and HSE are evaluating the responses to identify local authorities that are managing the risks, so that HSE inspections can be targeted at those that are not.

We do not intend to extend this to a national audit to determine the extent, type and condition of asbestos in school buildings. The Control of Asbestos Regulation 2006 places duties on those responsible for the maintenance and repair of non-domestic buildings, including schools, to take reasonable steps to identify the location and condition of asbestos containing materials. The duty holder must then use this information to make a written record and management plan to ensure that the risks of exposure to asbestos are properly managed. A national audit would duplicate these arrangements, and have little or no effect in reducing the health risks associated with asbestos.

Schools: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital funding has been allocated to schools in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency for each of the last three years. [291443]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not maintain central records on school capital allocations on a constituency basis, as they are made on a local authority basis. School capital allocations to Birmingham for each of the last three years are shown in the following table:

	£ million
2007-08	62.9
2008-09	64.5
2009-10	211.7

The 2009-10 allocations include £127 million in respect of the Building Schools for the Future programme, and an advance of £12.6 million brought forward from 2010-11 in support of the Government's fiscal stimulus initiative.

Schools: Buildings

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools for children aged three to 18 years have different primary and secondary sites. [292165]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not hold these data.

Source:

EduBase

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff sickness days were taken in schools as a result of an assault upon a staff member in each local education authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available; how many days were lost per staff member on average as a result of such assaults in that year; and what the estimated cost of such losses was to each local education authority in that period. [289288]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not held centrally by the Department.

Any violence against school staff is totally unacceptable. Our recently published behaviour strategy has at its centre strong discipline and good behaviour. It sets out how we will implement the parent and pupil guarantees announced in the "schools White Paper" that in their school there will be good behaviour, strong discipline, order and safety.

In addition, we intend to introduce new requirements on schools to record incidents of bullying between pupils, and incidents of verbal and physical abuse against school staff. We will introduce the new legislation in 2010. This new requirement will encourage more widespread and effective reporting, appropriate responses and prevention work. It will also send out a clear message to school staff that the issue will be taken seriously and acted upon.

Schools: Energy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what energy-efficiency standards his Department stipulated for circulator pumps installed in *(a)* existing and *(b)* new schools. [291787]

Mr. Coaker: The Building Regulations Part L2A and L2B set energy performance standards for new and refurbished buildings and the energy efficiency of pumps is regulated in this way. The Department does not directly stipulate energy efficiency standards for circulator pumps either for existing or new buildings. Within our main programme for new schools, the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, our approach is to set targets for carbon emissions by a combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

In addition to these regulatory actions, we have developed guidance to help the designers of all newly built schools achieve their target level of carbon reduction. This guidance encourages the use of energy efficient equipment without being prescriptive about design solutions. Additional funding has been provided to three groups of new secondary schools to enable them to reduce their carbon emissions by 60 per cent: schools within BSF, academies and school projects procured directly by local authorities ahead of their scheduled BSF rebuild (One School Pathfinder schools).

Schools: Manpower

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent *(a)* teachers, *(b)* teaching assistants and *(c)* support staff there were in local education authority schools in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [291441]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in service in local authority maintained schools in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in January 2009, the latest information available.

Full-time equivalent teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in local authority maintained schools[1], January 2009, Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency

	Number
Teachers[2]	1,660
Teaching assistants	900
Support staff[3]	1,380

[1] Excludes academies and city technology colleges. [2] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers. [3] Includes teaching assistants. *Note:* Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. *Source:* School Census

Schools: Playing Fields

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to dispose of school playing fields have been made by Nottinghamshire County Council in the last three months. [292164]

Mr. Coaker: We have not received any applications to dispose of school playing fields from Nottinghamshire county council in the last three months.

Schools: Swine Flu

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to announce his decision on whether schools will remain closed in September as a result of swine influenza; and if he will make a statement. [289817]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Secretary of State sent an email message to all schools on 26 August. That message stated:

> "We have been closely monitoring the spread and severity of swine flu over the school holidays. The latest scientific advice to the Government is that individual school closures [illegible] now of limited benefit in stopping the spread of disease.
>
> Given the mildness of the virus, the expert medical advice is that there is no good reason for schools to remain closed after the summer holiday. We therefore expect all schools and early-years and childcare settings in England to reopen as planned at the beginning of the new term."

Single Sex Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many single sex state *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools there have been in each year since 1997. [291854]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary[1] and state-funded secondary[1,2]: Single sex schools, as at January each year, England

	Primary schools	Secondary schools
1997	2	418
1998	2	421
1999	2	417
2000[3]	2	416
2001	3	412
2002	7	413
2003	5	411
2004[4]	6	410
2005	7	413
2006	7	411
2007	7	407
2008	7	404
2009	7	399

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] In 2000 the intake of four primary schools was not recorded.
[4] In 2004 the intake of one primary school was not recorded.
Source:
School Census and Edubase

Sure Start Programme: Internet

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the Sure Start budget was spent on updating the Sure Start website in 2008-09. [290364]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department spent £57,054 of the total £1,311,233,386 Sure Start budget on updating the Sure Start website during the 2008-09 financial year. This constitutes 0.004 per cent. of the Sure Start budget.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many entrants to teacher training courses had to resit the *(a)* literacy and *(b)* numeracy tests (i) once, (ii) twice and (iii) three or more times in the last year for which figures are available. [288243]

Mr. Coaker: The information is as follows:

(a) Literacy Test

In 2007/08, 3,760 entrants to teacher training courses had to resit the literacy test once. The number of entrants who resat the test two or more times was 2,490. A further breakdown to show those who resat the literacy test twice or three or more times could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

(b) Numeracy Test

In 2007-08, 3,260 entrants to teacher training courses had to resit the numeracy test once. The number of entrant who resat the test two or more times was 3,480. A further breakdown to show those who resat the numeracy test twice or three or more times could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of people aged 16 and 17 years were not in education, employment or training in each local authority area in each year since 2000. [285862]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* The Department's estimate of the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) cannot be disaggregated to local level. However, we can estimate the number of young people NEET using figures drawn from the client management systems maintained by Connexions services. The following table shows the number and proportion of young people aged 16 and 17 who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in each local authority area at the end of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 based on Connexions data. The first year for which local authority figures are available is 2005.

The figures relate to 16 and 17-year-olds known to Connexions in the December of each year. They are not directly comparable with the national estimates of 16 and 17-year-olds NEET published annually by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Number and proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training

	December each year							
	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
South East								
Bracknell Forest	150	8.6	90	5.5	80	4.8	120	7.1
Reading	330	10.8	290	8.0	250	8.4	240	8.6
Windsor and Maidenhead	100	4.5	90	4.3	90	3.7	100	4.5
Slough	230	8.7	150	5.8	140	5.4	140	5.3
West Berkshire	190	6.2	150	5.0	150	4.8	150	4.7
Wokingham	140	6.1	90	4.8	120	6.1	120	6.1

Number and proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training

	December each year							
	2005		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Kent	1,840	6.5	1,780	6.3	1,450	4.8	1,310	4.3
Medway	510	8.3	420	6.9	380	6.0	540	9.1
Buckinghamshire	300	3.3	250	2.8	240	2.6	310	3.4
Milton Keynes	340	7.5	280	6.1	260	5.2	280	5.4
Oxfordshire	590	4.5	560	5.0	470	4.2	630	5.8
Portsmouth	360	14.0	290	11.2	230	9.0	220	8.7
Southampton	500	12.3	430	10.7	390	10.0	380	9.9
Isle of Wight	160	5.8	160	6.1	150	5.5	140	5.2
Hampshire	1,320	5.2	1,420	5.5	1,270	4.9	1,380	5.3
Surrey	640	3.4	610	3.6	560	3.3	610	3.1
Brighton and Hove	420	10.0	430	10.9	300	7.7	300	6.4
East Sussex	530	6.0	710	7.9	620	6.9	680	6.8
West Sussex	680	4.6	630	4.4	550	4.2	690	5.3
London								
Camden	240	7.6	220	7.4	210	6.3	210	6.3
Islington	340	9.2	320	8.4	290	8.2	280	7.2
Kensington and Chelsea	100	8.6	120	8.8	80	4.9	90	5.3
Lambeth	400	13.7	300	11.4	240	9.3	180	7.9
Southwark	370	12.6	370	12.2	260	9.2	230	8.9
Wandsworth	200	6.5	230	6.0	160	3.7	190	4.5
Westminster	230	8.7	130	6.7	130	5.2	120	4.7
Barking and Dagenham	420	12.6	440	11.3	390	9.2	380	9.0
Bexley	280	6.0	320	7.4	270	6.6	230	5.5
City of London[1]	—	—	—	—	—	0.0	0	—
Greenwich	470	11.6	450	10.8	390	9.7	330	8.6
Hackney	350	14.7	360	13.7	280	11.1	220	10.7
Havering	400	7.4	360	6.0	320	5.5	270	4.8
Lewisham	380	8.8	250	5.6	240	5.6	260	5.1
Newham	490	9.8	570	11.4	400	9.0	370	7.8
Redbridge	310	6.0	270	4.8	240	4.2	210	3.6
Tower Hamlets[1]	380	10.1	410	11.0	230	8.5	240	7.1
Barnet	320	5.6	280	4.3	250	4.2	220	3.6
Enfield	480	7.9	390	6.5	370	6.9	330	6.1
Haringey	370	10.1	360	12.8	230	10.2	170	5.2
Waltham Forest	310	6.0	350	6.4	270	5.0	240	4.7
Bromley	270	4.6	290	4.7	270	4.2	270	4.0
Croydon	540	8.8	480	7.8	430	7.4	420	7.4
Kingston	100	3.2	110	3.6	90	2.9	90	2.9
Merton	120	7.2	120	7.3	90	6.2	100	6.5
Richmond	80	4.2	90	4.3	40	2.1	70	3.6
Sutton	210	4.6	190	4.4	180	4.3	150	3.7
Brent	190	4.6	200	5.4	180	5.1	150	3.7
Ealing	280	7.2	280	7.7	180	5.5	180	4.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	280	17.2	170	9.3	100	6.4	120	6.6
Harrow	210	5.3	170	4.3	80	2.0	100	2.9
Hillingdon	520	8.4	360	6.4	250	4.5	220	4.1
Hounslow	300	6.3	310	7.6	240	6.0	180	4.6
East of England								
Bedfordshire	540	6.8	500	6.4	470	6.1	410	5.1
Luton	330	7.9	310	8.1	250	6.0	220	5.6
Cambridgeshire	580	5.3	540	5.2	500	4.8	500	4.7
Peterborough	390	9.6	340	8.2	310	7.4	320	8.1
Essex	2,100	8.5	1,730	6.8	1,370	5.1	1,660	6.4
Thurrock	330	9.1	270	7.5	240	6.6	210	6.6
Southend	330	7.2	310	6.4	270	5.5	330	6.1
Hertfordshire	1,070	4.8	950	4.2	760	3.3	1,000	4.3
Norfolk	1,130	7.3	1,260	7.0	900	3.7	770	4.8
Suffolk	960	7.3	1,020	7.9	830	6.4	880	6.9

Number and proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training

	December each year							
	2005		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
South West								
Bournemouth	220	8.5	250	8.9	240	8.6	210	7.9
Dorset	380	5.6	490	6.8	380	5.2	380	5.5
Poole	180	6.4	180	6.1	160	5.4	140	4.9
Cornwall	540	5.0	630	5.8	590	5.5	560	5.3
Devon	720	5.3	830	6.0	710	5.5	800	6.1
Isles of Scilly	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—
Plymouth	420	6.8	410	7.0	400	6.9	400	6.8
Torbay	140	4.6	210	7.3	170	5.1	150	4.4
Gloucestershire	670	5.5	570	4.7	470	4.0	440	3.8
Somerset	510	4.9	480	4.7	390	3.9	400	4.0
Bath and NE Somerset	190	5.1	150	3.9	120	3.4	130	3.7
Bristol	600	9.2	530	7.1	450	6.3	520	7.1
North Somerset	150	4.3	150	4.8	140	4.0	130	3.8
South Gloucestershire	280	5.3	240	5.6	240	4.4	220	4.1
Swindon	220	5.3	350	8.1	240	5.4	300	7.1
Wiltshire	390	5.3	480	6.2	430	5.7	420	5.4
West Midlands								
Birmingham	2,550	13.2	2,240	10.2	1,630	7.2	1,870	8.6
Solihull	490	8.3	410	7.7	300	5.1	290	5.7
Dudley	580	8.5	560	6.5	480	5.7	410	4.8
Sandwell	690	11.9	700	17.1	570	13.3	520	12.7
Walsall	620	11.0	540	9.2	560	9.2	470	7.7
Wolverhampton	620	11.4	590	11.1	500	9.4	420	8.3
Coventry	570	8.4	550	8.0	420	6.0	360	5.3
Warwickshire	630	6.0	720	6.6	620	5.6	570	5.3
Herefordshire	190	5.9	170	5.2	180	5.3	190	5.6
Worcestershire	590	5.7	530	5.0	440	4.1	510	4.9
Shropshire	290	5.5	260	4.8	200	4.1	210	4.3
Telford and Wrekin	300	8.2	330	9.1	340	9.5	310	9.0
Staffordshire	1,100	6.6	1,120	6.7	870	4.9	840	4.6
Stoke on Trent	760	14.3	760	14.3	620	11.9	510	10.1
East Midlands								
Derby City	460	8.5	460	8.6	400	7.4	340	6.1
Derbyshire	860	6.8	870	6.7	830	6.2	830	6.3
Leicester City	730	10.2	740	10.0	650	8.5	560	7.7
Leicestershire	700	5.9	670	5.4	560	4.2	500	3.8
Lincolnshire	800	5.8	710	5.0	580	4.1	590	4.1
Rutland	—	0.7	10	3.0	10	1.9	10	3.0
Northamptonshire	980	7.1	840	6.1	700	5.1	630	4.6
Nottinghamshire	770	4.8	770	5.0	670	4.5	600	4.1
Nottingham	470	8.3	540	7.8	470	6.2	410	5.2
Yorks and The Humber								
East Riding	310	5.7	380	5.5	320	6.1	190	3.5
Kingston upon Hull	820	12.8	740	13.4	670	9.8	600	8.7
North East Lincolnshire	350	8.9	400	10.3	270	5.9	250	5.5
North Lincolnshire	270	7.3	320	8.9	270	6.7	250	6.4
Barnsley	630	14.1	530	12.1	350	7.7	380	8.3
Doncaster	800	12.5	790	12.5	510	7.9	440	7.1
Rotherham	630	10.3	700	10.5	600	8.9	450	6.5
Sheffield	1,000	10.0	940	9.7	850	8.6	740	7.4
Bradford	910	9.8	1,010	10.5	870	9.2	940	9.6
Calderdale	350	8.5	330	8.3	320	7.9	290	7.4
Kirklees	770	8.3	810	9.0	740	7.9	820	9.0
Leeds	1,400	9.5	1,390	9.4	1,410	9.7	1,220	8.1
Wakefield	790	11.5	810	11.2	730	9.7	780	10.7
York	200	4.3	240	5.2	210	4.2	200	4.4
North Yorkshire	500	4.4	480	4.2	440	4.0	460	4.4

Number and proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds not in education, employment or training

	December each year							
	2005		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
North West								
Cheshire	680	4.6	780	5.3	620	4.2	720	4.9
Warrington	240	6.2	270	6.7	200	4.9	250	6.2
Cumbria	550	5.4	500	4.8	450	4.3	410	3.9
Bolton	670	10.4	740	13.8	630	11.7	500	9.7
Bury	310	7.2	350	8.4	310	5.7	340	6.1
City of Manchester	1,070	11.3	1,040	11.4	840	8.8	890	9.4
Oldham	410	6.9	450	8.7	400	7.2	350	6.2
Rochdale	380	7.9	450	13.2	390	10.4	430	10.7
City of Salford	460	10.1	520	11.9	390	7.1	420	7.7
Stockport	370	6.4	480	8.4	480	6.6	420	5.9
Trafford	290	6.0	290	7.2	270	6.0	280	6.1
Tameside	460	8.6	450	9.6	420	8.7	410	8.4
Wigan	680	9.8	720	10.3	570	7.7	620	8.3
Halton	260	9.4	290	10.7	270	10.1	280	11.2
Knowsley	300	8.9	380	12.8	360	13.1	350	13.4
Liverpool	1,070	10.4	1,130	12.1	990	10.0	820	8.7
Sefton	470	7.2	440	6.1	400	5.8	440	6.6
St. Helens	380	10.3	380	8.8	320	7.1	320	7.3
Wirral	620	8.1	660	8.9	630	8.5	560	7.8
Blackburn-Darwen	320	8.9	340	6.2	290	6.3	250	5.7
Blackpool	340	10.4	370	8.2	340	7.1	310	6.7
Lancashire	1,560	6.6	1,680	7.7	1,640	7.1	1,370	6.0
North East								
County Durham	1,160	12.2	1,150	11.9	930	9.2	940	9.4
Northumberland	470	8.0	530	9.0	450	7.5	350	5.9
Darlington	220	8.7	190	6.0	180	5.5	190	5.8
Stockton on Tees	400	8.9	330	9.0	300	7.8	310	8.3
Middlesbrough	460	14.2	430	11.5	320	8.2	350	8.5
Hartlepool	180	8.3	230	10.6	140	6.3[1]	130	5.5
Redcar and [illegible]eveland	310	9.1	330	10.4	320	10.3	290	9.7
Sunderland	770	12.4	740	12.2	660	10.9	700	11.4
Gateshead	460	12.2	400	10.9	370	9.7	320	8.0
Newcastle	700	10.1	660	9.1	660	8.5	560	7.1
North Tyneside	430	11.2	390	10.5	310	8.2	300	8.1
South Tyneside	370	12.6	300	10.3	260	9.2	260	10.1

[1] Figures for City of London are included with those for Tower Hamlets in 2005 and 2006.

Source:

Connexions service database

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 October 2009

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2131W, on air passenger duty, what assessment his Department has made of the effect that the proposed increase in air passenger duty will have on *(a)* passenger numbers at airports in the South East of England, *(b)* passenger numbers at regional airports and *(c)* passenger numbers on other routes. [292300]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Transport published overall passenger demand forecasts for regional airports on page 130 of its Air Passenger Demand forecasts report:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/co2forecasts09.pdf

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate his Department has made of the effect of an increase in air passenger duty on levels of employment. [292495]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's impact assessment is set out on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website and can be accessed via:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/apd-reform-ia.pdf

Banks: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 847W, on banks: finance, how much of the first loss in respect of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Lloyds Banking Group has been written down; and when he expects the Asset Protection Scheme to be fully operational. [289917]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The announcements made in February and March set out an in principle agreement with the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and the Lloyds Banking Group (Lloyds) with regard to their participation in the Asset Protection Scheme (APS). Details about the financial performance of RBS and Lloyds, since they agreed in principle to participate in APS, are set out in their interim management statements of 5 August and 7 August respectively.

The final agreements remain under negotiation. Further announcements will be made in due course.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 535W, on banks: finance, which banks are participating in the Asset-backed Securities Scheme; and what the total monetary value is of the additional loans made available to each such bank. [289918]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The ABS guarantee scheme was made available at Budget 2009, extending funding options open to banks and building societies alongside other Government support schemes, including the existing Credit Guarantee Scheme. Demand for the guarantees will depend on eligible institutions' access to alternative sources of funding and demand for mortgage credit in the economy.

A list of eligible instruments guaranteed under the scheme will be made available by the DMO at:

http://www.dmo.gov.uk

Banks: Government Shareholding

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what position the Government holds in relation to other shareholders in the ranking for settlement in respect of *(a)* Bradford and Bingley and *(b)* Northern Rock. [289460]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Mansfield (Mr. Meale) on 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 323W.

Cheques

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Payments Council on electronic payments by mobile telephone payments as an alternative form of payment to cheques; [291467]

(2) what discussions he has had with clearing banks on proposals to cease the use of cheques as methods of payment; and what assessment he has made of the risks to security of financial transfers of methods of payment other than cheques. [291745]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors to discuss as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1385, on child care tax credit, what estimate he has made of the cost of distributing the child care element of the working tax credit had all those eligible to claim done so in 2008-09. [289300]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

HMRC does not have data on the total number of families eligible for the child care element.

Child Tax Credit

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to improve take-up of child tax credit. [288442]

Mr. Timms: The Government's aim is to ensure that everyone receives all of the help that they are entitled to.

Tax credits are benefiting around 6 million families and 10 million children. Take-up is now higher than for any previous system of income-related financial support, at 81 per cent. for the child tax credit, rising to 92 per cent. for the poorest fifth of families. HM Revenue and Customs is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to sustain and increase these high levels of take-up, using methods such as:

placing tax credit advisers in 100 children centres;

joining up marketing of parents' entitlements through the Payments for Parents campaign; and

offering information for new mothers in Bounty packs.

Child Trust Fund

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* Dacorum had received child trust fund payments on the latest date for which figures are available. [289420]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 893W.

Civil Service: Location

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Civil Service jobs have been relocated to the north-west of England in the last four years. [291472]

Mr. Byrne: Under the Government's Relocation programme 3,951 posts had been relocated out of London and the south-east to the north-west of England by December 2008.

Climate Change

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research projects the International Development and Climate Change Team of his Department's International Finance Directorate *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake on matters related to energy and climate change. [289823]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Research on matters pertaining to energy and climate change is led by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. Officials in the International Development and Climate Change team work in cooperation with their counterparts at DECC.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 9 June 2009 on banks. [289864]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 7 September 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent; and for what reason no acknowledgement was sent at that time. [292307]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: An acknowledgement was sent to my hon. Friend on 10 September and a reply to the correspondence on 4 October.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289514]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A breakdown of expenditure on newspaper advertising could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, (ii) the Government Actuary's Department, (iii) HM Revenue and Customs and (iv) the Public Works Loan Board. [289844]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A copy of the Display Energy Certificates (DEC) and associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied that requires a DEC for (i) the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND), (ii) the Government Actuary's Department and (iv) the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) will be placed in the Library. CRND and PLWB are both part of the UK Debt Management Office and occupy the same building and therefore have the same DEC and advisory report.

Due to the size of its estate, HM Revenue and Customs will place an electronic record of DECs and associated advisory reports for all properties it occupies that require a DEC in the Library as soon as possible.

It may be helpful to note that the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) has published central government department's Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings. This building level detail can be accessed through the OGC website

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme_ progress.asp

and includes DEC reference numbers for each building which can be used to access relevant advisory reports on the Non-Domestic Energy Performance Certificate Register

https://www.ndepcregister.com/home.html

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties owned by his Department were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was in each such year. [290603]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the number of properties owned by the Department that attracted business rates and the cost in each year since 2005-06 is shown in the following table. There has been no spending by the Department on empty property rates since 2005-06.

	Number of properties	*Cost of business rates (£)*
2005-06	2	1,666,000
2006-07	1	1,684,000
2007-08	1	1,726,000
2008-09	1	1,796,000
2009-10	1	1,699,000

Departmental Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289749]

Mr. Byrne: The Minister assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in HM Treasury is the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury co-ordinates the work of value for money Ministers across the Government.

HM Treasury is committed to reforming public services to improve services for the citizen and that various teams are working closely with colleagues in the centre of Government on this important agenda.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1889-90W, how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs has spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since December 2008. [289070]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is set out in the following table.

£000

Organisation	*Flat screen televisions*	*DVD players*	*Stereo equipment*
HM Treasury[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a
DMO	4	0	0
OGC	0	0	0
Buying solutions	0	0	0
HMRC[2]	0	1	0

[1] Information in relation to the Treasury is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

[2] HMRC figures may exclude flat screen televisions bought as part of a package e.g. video conferencing or closed circuit television equipment. It is not possible to identity the cost of the television element of such packages.

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290602]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury promotes flexible working by offering a variety of working arrangements which includes compressed hours, part-time, job-sharing, working from home and flexi-time.

Flexible working hours are available to all staff within HM Treasury, but participation is dependent upon local agreements within individual teams. The operation of these agreements is supervised by individual line managers, and not recorded centrally. Information about the number of staff participating in such arrangements could therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* Blackberrys and *(c)* laptop computers have been issued to staff in his Department in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following (A) loss and (B) theft of a previous device. [290596]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In respect of the numbers of mobile telephones, Blackberry devices and laptop computers issued to Treasury staff prior to 2007, I refer the hon. Lady to the answer my predecessor gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 373W. The following table gives details of the numbers issued in the subsequent completed years.

Number

	Mobile telephones	*Blackberrys*	*Laptop computers*
2007	25	60	64
2008	91	203	247

The figures for 2008 reflect an increasing use of flexible and remote working tools within the Department as well as a laptop refresh and encryption project which took place during the year.

In respect of the replacement of missing or stolen items, I refer the hon. Lady to the answer my predecessor gave to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 819W. For the numbers of lost or stolen laptop computers in the years requested, I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Reigate (Mr. Blunt) on 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 666W. For the numbers of lost of stolen Blackberry devices and mobile telephones, I refer the hon. Lady to the answer given by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 849W.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the average length of employment of staff in the Department at each Civil Service payband. [290599]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury's staffing and recruitment practices make provision for permanent employees to manage their careers in an active manner, as well as opportunities for people across the labour market, from both the public and private sectors, to work in the Department on short-term loans and secondments as part of their wider careers. The following table, which sets out the average number of years spent at each payband, is based on the median average number of years employed in the Treasury. It reflects the balance the Department strikes between developing staff, promotion on merit, and developing a balanced and flexible workforce with a variety of skills to meet the Department's objectives.

HM Treasury pay range	*Civil service payband*	*Average number of years*[1]
Range B	AA/AO	1.7
Range C	EO	5.3
Range D	HEO/SEO	1.4
Range E	Grade 7/Grade 6	3.5
Senior Civil Service	Senior Civil Service	8.6

[1] Median average number of years employed at HM Treasury, as at September 2009.

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff there were in his Department *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [292072]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is set out in the Treasury's annual reports for the years concerned. Those are in the Library and can be accessed via:

1997

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/106.pdf

2009

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/annual_report_2009_full.pdf

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 947W, on departmental marketing, what the cost of branding activity was for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs in 2008-09. [290292]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008-09, the following was spent on branding activity:

	£
HMT	3,344
Agencies	164,160
HMRC	191,325

Departmental Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his Department's policy to print on both sides of the paper used for correspondence; and if he will estimate the potential for reduction in paper usage arising from the introduction of such a policy. [291879]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury Group remains committed to sustainable development, contributing to the UK's Sustainable Development Action Plan and striving to reduce the impact of the Group's operations on the environment. Based on year-on-year falls in emissions to 2007-08 and an assessment of having sound carbon management systems, the Treasury Group was awarded the Carbon Trust Standard for all of its UK operations. This includes all emissions from the estate, and from all transport used by officials and ministers. The Treasury Group is proud to have achieved this, and is committed to maintaining the standard.

Specifically on paper usage, in 2008, the Treasury adjusted the default setting of all printers to print on both sides, which has significantly reduced paper usage, although single side printing may sometimes be appropriate and this is an issue we shall continue to focus on.

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years and what the average length of such leave was. [290601]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In each of the five years to 2008-09, staff working at HM Treasury have been entitled to take up to two weeks paid paternity leave on the birth or adoption of a child. Prior to the start of 2009-10, HM Treasury did not record instances of staff paternity leave centrally; the information requested could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* air travel, *(c)* hotels and *(d)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289975]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of spending on travel and subsistence since 2003-04 is shown in the Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts (HC 611). A breakdown of those figures into the categories requested could not be achieved within the disproportionate costs threshold.

All travel undertaken by Ministers and civil servants is in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively. All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing Public Money."

The Government published a list of all overseas travel by Ministers costing over £500 on 16 July and this can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290510]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury publishes diversity data on recruitment on its website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about_equality.htm

The diversity data available covers the years 2006, 2007 and 2008-09. Further information on diversity and recruitment is available in the Treasury's equality schemes (Race, Disability and Gender) also available on the website.

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to his Department of sickness absence was in each of the last five years. [290598]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table gives the cost to HM Treasury of sickness absence in total number of working days lost for years 2007-08, and 2008-09. Published figures for 2004, 2005 and 2006 can be found on the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/sickness.aspx

HM Treasury sickness absence 2007-08 and 2008-09

Number

	Average working days lost	*Total days lost*
2008-09	3.6	4,187
2007-08	4.7	5,507

HM Treasury systems do not record the financial costs of these sickness absence days, which could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, details of HM Treasury's staffing costs and numbers are published annually in its Departmental Reports and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days training were provided to staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs on managing budgets in the last 12 months; how many staff attended each of the courses provided; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the training materials provided during such training. [289127]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury Group, comprising HM Treasury, the Office of Government Commerce and the Debt Management Office, provide extensive formal training to staff working on managing internal budgets, one-to-one training on demand, and, in addition, staff are able to attend a range of informal training via their individual directorates. Details of the amount of training provided are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), including the Valuation Office Agency, provides a range of tailored training to managers on budget management in order to meet the Department's financial skills and capability strategy, as well as E-learning facilities and informal on-the-job training. As part of that effort, in the last year staff were provided with 839 days of training relating specifically to managing internal budgets.

Materials for these courses are subject to copyright and restrictions on publication that apply to protected internal management information.

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289691]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Due to delegated team budgets for training, this information is not held centrally and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training courses have been provided to staff at HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [289839]

Mr. Timms: The information on training courses provided in the last 12 months has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The information requested regarding the cost of training for the last 12 months could be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Waste

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289666]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury is committed to making operations as sustainable as possible. Detailed information containing latest figures is contained in HM Treasury Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 (HC 611).

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision is made to enable students to undertake work experience in his Department; by what means members of the public may obtain information about work experience in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [288733]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury offers summer work placements to students via programmes organised by the Government Economic Service which are advertised on the GES website (www.ges.gov.uk). It also participates in the Summer Placement Scheme and Summer Development Programme organised by the Cabinet Office; these opportunities are publicised by the Fast Stream marketing team and advertised on the Fast Stream website:

www.faststream.gov.uk

Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to commence the distribution to charities of money from dormant bank accounts under the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008. [289312]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The UK dormant accounts scheme enables money in dormant bank and building society accounts to be reinvested to the benefit of the community, while ensuring that the right of account holders to reclaim their money is protected.

Following the passage of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act in November 2008, the Government completed the legislative framework for the scheme by passing secondary legislation to enable the FSA to regulate a reclaim fund on 29 June 2009. The FSA then published its final rules for regulating a reclaim fund on 24 July 2009. The Government are looking for the scheme to be operational as soon as possible following the authorisation of a reclaim fund.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effects of the recent road fuel duty increase on *(a)* filling stations in and *(b)* the economy of remote rural areas; [291662]

(2) what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the cost and impact of schemes operated by other EU member states which use a derogation to apply a lower rate of fuel duty to remote areas and islands; and if he will make a statement; [291663]

(3) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of variation in fuel prices in other EU member states on road fuel sales in the UK and associated revenue; and if he will make a statement. [291664]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: When making decisions on fuel duty, the Chancellor takes into account all relevant economic, social and environmental factors. This includes the impact on rural areas. The increase in road fuel duty which took place on 1 September will help to support the public finances in the medium-term.

It is a key principle of the tax system that the same rate of excise duty will apply throughout the UK. The Government have therefore decided not to impose a reduced rate of fuel duty in remote areas. The Government are aware of derogations in other EU member states, but does not hold information on the cost of such schemes.

Data on fuel prices throughout the EU are available at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/prices

The Government have not made an assessment of the impact of fuel prices in other countries on UK prices, but all countries will be similarly affected by movements in the international oil market.

Financial Institutions: Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representatives from each of the financial institutions which are partly or wholly owned by the Government on the Government's objective to encourage investment in low-carbon technologies; and if he will make a statement. [290125]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Gift Aid

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 40 of the joint Cabinet Office-Treasury publication Real Help for Communities: Volunteers, Charities and Social Enterprises, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research on redirection of the higher rate of gift aid from donors to charities. [292172]

Ian Pearson: Budget 2009 announced research into the effect of redirecting gift aid higher rate relief from donors to charities. The Government will publish the research later this year, and the full report will be available on the HM Treasury website.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288922]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers' official duties entail visits throughout the United Kingdom.

Global Economy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the papers submitted by the United Kingdom, *(b)* the papers submitted by other G20 parties and *(c)* the speeches made by participants in respect of the G20 meeting on reform of the global economy in Pittsburgh on 24 and 25 September 2009. [292492]

Mr. Timms: At the London summit, leaders asked the Prime Minister as Chair to report on the adaptability and responsiveness of the international financial institutions. His report, titled 'Supporting Global Growth', was welcomed by leaders at the Pittsburgh summit and is available at:

http://www.pittsburghsummit.gov/resources/

Other contributions presented to the Pittsburgh summit are available at the same address. The IMF's contributions are available at:

www.imf.org

G20 leaders meet in closed session and thus specific interventions by leaders at the summit are not publicly available. However, the Leaders' Statement is available at:

http://www.pittsburghsummit.gov/mediacenter/129639.htm

Copies of the Prime Minister's report and these web pages have been placed in the Library of the House.

Government Securities

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of gilts and bonds sold to organisations in *(a)* China and *(b)* India in each of the last three years. [291777]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Debt Management Office (DMO) predominantly sells gilts competitively via auctions in the primary market to the primary market dealers, that is, the Gilt-Edged Market Makers (GEMMs), only. GEMMs are financial institutions recognised as such by the DMO. The DMO does not sell gilts direct to other organisations. GEMMs place bids at auctions on behalf of their clients. Foreign investors can also acquire their gilts in the secondary market.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Compensation

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the numbers of depositors with Kaupthing, Singer and

Friedlander (UK) who *(a)* are eligible for compensation, *(b)* have been compensated or informed they will be compensated and *(c)* are awaiting compensation from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [292145]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) has provided the following information:

(a) The estimated number of KSF eligible depositors is 174,686;

(b) 173,703 depositors have already received compensation; and

(c) 283 applications for compensation remain under consideration by the FSCS, with around 700 application forms remaining unreturned.

Keydata Investment Services

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of UK residents affected by the entry into administration of Key Data Investment Services (KIS); and what assessment he has made of the financial consequences of the Financial Services Authority's decision to require KIS to enter administration. [292416]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: On 8 June 2009, as a result of the application by the FSA on the grounds that Keydata was insolvent, the Court placed Keydata into administration.

PricewaterhouseCoopers ('PwC') were appointed as administrators for KIS and the administration process is still ongoing. A dedicated website and telephone number have been made available for investors and other interested parties.

The FSA is now working closely with PwC and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme as well as with other interested parties, including the Serious Fraud Office and overseas regulatory authorities. In addition HMRC is working with the administrators to establish what the tax implications of this are to ISA investors in light of all the relevant information. HMRC will soon be advising individuals as to the tax implications of their non-qualifying Keydata investments.

PwC and the FSA will keep the public updated.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1401W, on Members: correspondence, when he will reply to the correspondence from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 April 2009, on green businesses. [289940]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the MP's Parliamentary Business Unit of the Tax Credit Office will be in a position to respond to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence on 24 March and 10 June 2009 on his constituent Mr. John Reid. [290002]

Mr. Timms: The Tax Credit Office has contacted the hon. Member's office about his constituent to apologise for the delay and clarify the current position.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 June 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. M Rathfelder. [290236]

Mr. Timms: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. B. McGill. [290237]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters of 20 March and 8 June 2009 from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare sent on behalf of a constituent, Mr. Ian Wild. [291692]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 30 August.

Mortgages: Debts

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of repossessions arising from actions by sub-prime lenders in the last 12 months; and whether such repossessions are reflected in the repossession statistics compiled by the Financial Services Authority. [291812]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have made no estimate of the number of repossessions arising from actions by specific categories of lenders in the last 12 months. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) publishes quarterly data on residential mortgage lending, covering the period from the first quarter of 2007, available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/index.shtml

These data are collected from all lenders with FSA authorisation, regardless of individual firm or product characteristics.

National Insurance Contributions

Jim Dowd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward measures to make national insurance contributions cumulative from each employment up to the maximum income level. [290083]

Mr. Timms: In October 2007 the Treasury published a report Income tax and National Insurance alignment: an evidence-based assessment. It is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pbr_csr07_income.htm

The report noted that changing to a National Insurance system in which earnings were cumulated across all employment for those with more than one job would allow a small number of individuals (currently estimated at around 40,000) to gain access to contributory benefits. However others, including some low earners, would lose out by having to pay more National Insurance Contributions. The report considered more widely aligning the administration of National Insurance Contributions with that of income tax. The Government's conclusion in the Report was that on balance the benefits of administrative alignment did not outweigh the costs.

Pensions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 482W-83W, and 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 208W, on pensions, what expenditure items are included in the row entitled other spending of Table 4.1 on page 36 of the Long-term Public Finance Report of March 2008. [289402]

Mr. Byrne: The Long-term Public Finance report and the analysis on which the report is based focus on demographic change. Table 4.1 of the Long-term Public Finance report shows the results of modelling the impact of demographic change on total expenditure (including gross investment but excluding interest and dividend payments). The 'other spending' line includes all other Government expenditure not otherwise included in table 4.1, excluding interest and dividend payments.

Pensions: Public Sector

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total cost of pensions for retired public sector workers in each of the next 10 years. [288182]

Mr. Byrne: The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2009 (Cmd Paper 7630) provides forward estimates of pensions in payment in the Pay As You Go (PAYG) public service schemes in table D1. These estimates are derived from spending plans and therefore cover up to 2010-11.

The main schemes covered are those for the NHS, teachers, civil service and armed forces. These figures include cash payments of members' continuing pensions, lump sums, spouses' benefits and similar payments, and bulk and individual transfers out.

Performance Standards

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration his Department has given to the potential role of the private sector in meeting the public sector efficiency targets published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report 2009; and if he will make a statement. [289639]

Mr. Byrne: Budget 2009 published a departmental breakdown of the Government's £35 billion VFM target, and the "2009 VFM Update" published further detail on some of the reforms Departments will take forward to achieve their targets. Departments may use the private sector to help deliver their targets; these decisions are a matter for individual Departments to make based on their own value for money assessment.

Private Finance Initiative: Government Assistance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much public money has been spent to assist companies with private finance initiative contracts which have been adversely affected by the credit crunch; how much such expenditure has been committed but not spent; which companies *(a)* have been assisted and *(b)* are planned to be assisted in this way; and what his estimate is of the likely total public expenditure for this purpose. [292137]

Ian Pearson: No money has been spent assisting companies with private finance contracts and there are no plans to do so. In March 2009 the Treasury established its Infrastructure Financing Unit (TIFU) as a temporary and reversible initiative, which can provide loans on market terms to PFI projects struggling to reach financial close due to problems in the debt market. TIFU does not provide direct financial support to companies operating PFI contracts but lends at a commercial rate to PFI projects in procurement.

Property Development

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent fiscal steps he has introduced to encourage commercial property development. [291985]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is the Government's view that the best way to support the commercial property sector is to support the recovery of the wider economy. At pre-Budget Report 2008 and Budget 2009, the Government announced significant measures to support economic recovery in the UK, including additional support for business cashflow and investing in infrastructure, skills and innovation to provide the right environment for business growth.

These measures include:

reducing the main rate of VAT to 15 per cent until 31 December 2009;

measures to help SMEs facing credit constraints;

a deferral in the increase in the small companies rate of corporation tax;

temporary extension to loss relief rules; and

deferral of part of this year's business rates inflation up-rating.

Public Expenditure: Nuclear Weapons

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the opportunity cost of maintaining a UK nuclear weapons system for *(a)* other UK defence and security spending and *(b)* spending on schools and hospitals in (i) 10 years, (ii) 20 years and (iii) 40 years time; and if he will make a statement. [289767]

Mr. Byrne: Information regarding the costs of maintaining a UK nuclear deterrent was set out in the 2006 White Paper, The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent'.

Registered Social Landlords

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects upon the economy of the redesignation of registered social landlords as public bodies for public sector borrowing requirement purposes. [291874]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No such assessment has been made.

Stamp Duties

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will direct the National Housing and Planning Advisory Unit to assess the level of public support for abolishing stamp duty for first time buyers on properties sold for up to £250,000. [290473]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Stamp duty rates and thresholds are kept under review as part of the Budget process.

Tax Allowances

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which tax schemes have been closed since 2 December 2004 as a result of retrospective legislation application. [289825]

Mr. Timms: Since 2 December 2004 a number of schemes have been closed by legislation which was enacted with retrospective effect (i.e. to a date before the announcement date). The schemes in question were addressed by the following provisions:

Section 92 Finance Act 2006 (avoidance using options etc);

Section 58 Finance Act 2008 (UK residents and foreign partnerships);

Section 67 Finance Act 2009 (deductions for employee liabilities);

Section 68 Finance Act 2009 (employment loss relief); and,

Section 61 and schedule 30 FA 2009 (financial arrangements avoidance).

Tax Allowances: Empty Property

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on empty property rate relief since April 2009. [291686]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

Tax Allowances: Landlords

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of landlords who have claimed wear and tear allowance against their income from property letting in each year since 2005. [292360]

Mr. Timms: The number of landlords claiming wear and tear allowance, as recorded on the self-assessment return, was 520,000 in 2005-06, 530,000 in 2006-07 and 535,000 in 2007-08, the latest year available.

Tax Allowances: Safety Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to provide tax incentives to purchase cars fitted with a seat belt reminder system; and if he will make a statement. [289619]

Mr. Timms: There are no current plans to provide tax incentives for the purchase of vehicles fitted with a seat belt reminder system.

All taxes are kept under review and announcements of any changes are made at the Budget and pre-Budget report.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Binley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether employment loss liabilities fall within the ambit of the Paymaster General's statement of 2 December 2004 on anti-avoidance measures; and if he will make a statement; [289824]

(2) whether tax schemes which do not involve the extraction of income from a company by an employee in a manner which is free of PAYE, income tax and national insurance contributions fall within the ambit of by the Paymaster General's statement of 2 December 2004 on anti-avoidance measures; and if he will make a statement. [289826]

Mr. Timms: The Paymaster General's statement of 2004 warned that where we become aware of arrangements which attempt to frustrate our intention that employers and employees should pay the proper amount of tax we will introduce legislation to close them down, where necessary from 2 December 2004.

It remains the Government's view that in rare cases, whether in the field of employment income or more widely, it will be appropriate for us to act retrospectively to ensure that abusive schemes are closed down rapidly and effectively. Section 68 of Finance Act 2009, dealing with employment losses was one such example.

Tax Credit

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in Hemel Hempstead constituency claimed working tax credit in the latest period for which figures are available; [289434]

(2) how many people in Hemel Hempstead constituency claimed child tax credit in the latest period for which figures are available. [289435]

Mr. Timms: The latest information on the number of recipient families of child and working tax credits, by parliamentary constituency, is given in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) snapshot publication, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Geographical Analyses April 2009".

This publication is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

Tax Credit: Pension Funds

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which public sector pension schemes have incurred costs arising from the abolition of dividend tax credits. [288688]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury has not made an assessment of the effect on the costs to public sector pension schemes arising from the abolition of payable dividend tax credits. The decision in 1997 to abolish payable dividend tax credits was taken to remove a distortion in the tax system, which had encouraged companies to pay out their profits in dividends, rather than retain them for reinvestment in the business. The measure was part of a wider package of measures designed to improve the climate for long-term investment in the UK.

Taxation: Caravan Sites

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons those who let caravans through caravan sites are allowed to treat their income as trading income. [292362]

Mr. Timms: In certain circumstances, the activities associated with operating a caravan site may amount to trading.

Legislation allows caravan site proprietors who have both rental income from letting caravans and trading income from running a caravan site, to treat their rental income as a trade receipt.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the reclassification of income from holiday lets as unearned income. [289362]

Mr. Timms: Income from furnished holiday lettings will not be reclassified. It will continue to be assessed as property income, but after the repeal of the furnished holiday lettings rules it will no longer be treated as trade income for certain tax purposes.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department conducted an assessment of the likely effects on the self-catering tourism industry of changes to the furnished holiday lettings scheme in 2010. [291595]

Mr. Timms: An Impact Assessment for the changes to the furnished holiday lettings rules will be published at the 2009 pre-Budget report.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is considering steps to mitigate the effects upon landlords of the changes in the furnished holiday letting rules due to take place in April 2010. [291641]

Mr. Timms: Tax policy changes and related measures are considered through the Budget process in the usual way and in the light of prevailing economic and other circumstances. The Government announced the withdrawal of the furnished holiday lettings scheme from 2010 in Budget 2009 and will be publishing draft legislation for comment alongside the pre-Budget report. An impact assessment will also be published at this time.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what loss relief will be available to those operating commercial furnished holiday letting businesses once the furnished holiday letting rules are repealed. [292361]

Mr. Timms: After the repeal of the furnished holiday lettings rules, loss relief will be available to those letting furnished holiday accommodation under the property income rules.

In general, individuals may set their losses against other property income they have in the year, or against the future profits of their letting business.

In general, companies will set their losses against income from other sources in the year or future years.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason consultation was not required to be held before the furnished holiday letting rules were repealed; and if he will make a statement. [292364]

Mr. Timms: The announcement to withdraw the FHL rules was made at Budget 2009 in order to provide a period of notice to those affected, and thus allow them time to plan for the change in tax treatment.

We intend to publish draft legislation and an impact assessment at the 2009 pre-Budget report, and we will be happy to receive comments at that time. The legislation will be in a future Finance Bill.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on compliance of the furnished holiday letting rules with European Union law. [292365]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury receives representations on a range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

UK Land Investments

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the Financial Services Authority's discharge of its responsibilities in winding up UK Land Investments. [292045]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The regulation of Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) as defined in section 235 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 is a matter for the Financial Services Authority (FSA), as the independent regulator.

On 1 April 2008 the FSA applied for a winding up petition against UK Land investments (UKLI) on the basis that: (i) UKLI had carried on and was carrying on a regulated activity in breach of the general prohibition within the meaning of section 367(1) of the Act; (ii) UKLI was unable to pay its debts within the meaning of section 123 of the Insolvency Act 1986; and (iii) it was just and equitable that UKLI should be wound up.

The FSA had previously advised UKLI that its landbanking scheme fell within the definition of a CIS and that the operation of a CIS without authorisation by the FSA amounts to a breach of the general prohibition (section 19 of the Act) and was a criminal offence (section 23 of the Act). The FSA also advised UKLI that the investors who had invested in its scheme to date would be entitled to recover any money paid pursuant to the scheme and/or recover compensation for any loss sustained by them pursuant to section 26 of the Act.

Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Valuation Office Agency receives information on the addition to a dwelling of a conservatory. [290432]

Mr. Timms: Billing authorities have a statutory duty under section 27(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to provide the Valuation Office Agency with any information which they consider would assist in maintaining council tax valuation lists.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties in Windsor constituency have been included on the Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model database. [291870]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's (VOA's) Automated Valuation Model (AVM) is not a database. It is the technology developed to support the valuation of dwellings. It draws on data held in the VOA's property database, which holds details of individual properties. The VOA has held information on properties for many years in order to maintain up to date valuation lists. All domestic properties appearing in the valuation list for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (60,837 as at 2 September 2009) are on the VOA's property database.

Valuation: Appeals

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rights of appeal *(a)* council taxpayers and *(b)* business ratepayers have in relation to decisions of the Valuation Office Agency. [290417]

Mr. Timms: Council tax and business ratepayers have the following rights of appeal against decisions made by the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) listing and valuation officers:

In the first instance, a 'proposal' may be made to alter the valuation band or rateable value of their property. Further information on how to do this can be found on the VOA's website at:

For council tax:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/council_tax/can_i_appeal.htm

and on the Scottish Assessors' website at:

http://www.saa.gov.uk/proposals.html

For business rates:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/business_rates/2005AppealsFAQs.htm

If a taxpayer is not satisfied with the outcome of their proposal, they may subsequently appeal to an independent valuation tribunal. Further details on how to do this can be found at:

For council tax:

http://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk/Council_Tax.aspx

For business rates:

http://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk/Rating.aspx

If a council taxpayer disagrees with the decision of the valuation tribunal, they may appeal to the High Court on a point of law. Further information is available at:

http://www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk/Attending_A_Hearing/Your_questions_answered.aspx

If a business ratepayer disagrees with the decision of the valuation tribunal, they may appeal to the Lands Tribunal, further information can be found at:

http://www.landstribunal.gov.uk/index.htm

and

http://www.landstribunal.gov.uk/Documents/ExplanatoryLeafletJune09.pdf

which also sets out the subsequent right of appeal to the Court of Appeal on a point of law.

Council tax or business ratepayers may also be able to seek a Judicial Review, by the Administrative Court, on decisions made by VOA officers. Further information is available at:

http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/cms/1220.htm

VAT: Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps the Government have taken to assist small businesses with payment of value added tax. [291522]

Mr. Timms: The Government introduced the Business Payment Support Service (BPSS) on 24 November 2008, and extended it at Budget 2009, to help businesses in temporary financial difficulties spread their tax payments over a timetable they can afford. As of 20 September 2009, HM Revenue and Customs have agreed over 200,000 time to pay arrangements through the service.

The Government also provide assistance to small businesses with VAT payments through the VAT cash accounting and VAT annual accounting schemes, designed to help businesses manage their cash flow and to spread their VAT payments evenly.

VAT: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many claims for VAT refunds for self-build housebuilders have been received in relation to *(a)* new homes and *(b)* conversions in each year since 1997; and how many claims were accepted in each such year; [292294]

(2) what the total monetary value of VAT refunds for self-build housebuilders has been in relation to *(a)* new homes and *(b)* conversions in each year since 1997; and what the total monetary value of accepted claims was in each such year. [292295]

Mr. Timms: Until 2003, VAT refund claims from 'do it yourself' (DIY) house builders were handled in local VAT offices, with no central record being kept. In 2003, HM Customs and Excise (as it then was) began transferring claims to a central unit for processing. Processing of DIY claims was not fully transferred from local offices to the central unit until April 2004. That unit maintains statistics for all claims handled, which are provided as follows:

DIY claims by number

	New homes	*Conversions*	*Total received*	*Total accepted and paid*
2004	8,665	1,254	9,919	9,396
2005	10,000	1,474	11,474	10,835
2006	9,807	1,291	11,098	10,362
2007	9,763	1,106	10,869	10,170
2008	10,218	1,115	11,333	10,477
2009	7,310	1,076	8,386	6,130

DIY claims by monetary value

£

	New homes	*Conversions*	*Total received*	*Total accepted and paid*
2004	58,259,072.85	12,585,831.27	70,844,904.12	60,542,311.76
2005	70,639,058.90	16,617,743.21	87,256,802.11	74,438,595.28
2006	74,540,836.64	14,330,105.80	88,870,942.44	73,901,579.76
2007	86,100,693.64	13,446,336.83	99,547,030.47	84,454,747.06
2008	96,492,046.55	13,993,784.52	110,485,831.07	89,002,942.31
2009	68,560,147.20	14,475,558.17	83,035,705.37	54,378,504.99

The figures for 2009 cover the part year to 6 October.

Wealth

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of total *(a)* income and *(b)* wealth was held by the top (i) 10, (ii) 5, (iii) 1, (iv) 0.1 and (v) 0.01 per cent. of the population with the percentage of each in the latest period for which figures are available; how many people were in each such group; and what the average (A) income and (B) wealth of persons in each group was. [292135]

Mr. Timms: The proportion of total income accounted for by the top 10, 5 and 1 per cent. of UK taxpayers by income can be found in table 2.4 'Share of total income (before and after tax) and income tax for percentile groups', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-4.pdf

Information on the top 0.1 and 0.01 per cent. of UK taxpayers is not readily available.

The number and average income of taxpayers in each group can be determined from the above together with table 2.5 'Income Tax liabilities, by income range', with reference to the total number of taxpayers and their income stated on this table. This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Estimates for the proportion of wealth held by the top 10, 5 and 1 per cent. of the UK adult population are available up to year 2003 and are published in table 13.5 'Personal Wealth—distribution among the adult population of marketable wealth' at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal_wealth/menu.htm

Information on the proportion of wealth held by the top 0.1 and 0.01 per cent. of UK taxpayers is not available.

The number of UK adults in 2003 was 46 million, from which figure the numbers in the top 10, 5 and 1 per cent. of the population can be calculated.

The average wealth of persons in each group can be calculated by:

Calculating the wealth per group using the proportions in table 13.5 referred to above and the estimate of total marketable wealth published in table 13.4, available at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal_wealth/table13_5.pdf

and

Dividing by the number of people in each group.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from how many residents of Bassetlaw constituency Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has reported repayment of tax credit overpayments; and what is the sum of the overpayments outstanding. [292034]

Mr. Timms: Information about the number of residents of Bassetlaw constituency who have repaid a tax credit overpayment, and the sum of overpayments outstanding, is only available at disproportionate cost.

Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on the annual number and value of tax credits overpaid and underpaid by parliamentary constituency, is available in the HM Revenue and Customs publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses". These publications are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Working Tax Credit

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on the childcare element of the working tax credit in each quarter of the last five years for which figures are available. [290399]

Mr. Timms: Table 2.4 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics Finalised Awards" for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08, provides information on the estimated expenditure on the child care element. This is shown in the following table.

The same table contains estimates of the average help with child care costs these families received in each relevant year. This information is not available on a quarterly basis.

	Child care element expenditure (£ million)	*Average help with child care costs per week (£)*
2003-04	613	43.58
2004-05	706	44.29
2005-06	858	48.45
2006-07	1,179	58.97
2007-08	1,364	63.17

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there have been discussions between officials of his Department and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on *(a)* wild animals in travelling circuses and *(b)* the welfare of racing greyhounds in the last 12 months. [290437]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no discussions between officials in my Department and DEFRA on wild animals travelling in circuses. My Department has no responsibility for welfare of racing greyhounds, this is a matter for DEFRA. However, my officials have discussed the welfare of racing greyhounds with DEFRA officials during the last 12 months. This was in the context of the recent DEFRA consultation on the proposed introduction of regulations to promote the welfare of racing greyhounds, to be made under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Arts

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the creative arts in the regions of the abolition of the regional structure of the Arts Council; and if he will make a statement. [292415]

Margaret Hodge: The re-organisation of the regional structure of Arts Council England is primarily an operational matter for the Arts Council to determine. So it is not a matter on which the Secretary of State should make an assessment but he is aware of the improvements in efficiency the new structure is designed to deliver, which he supports.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he had with regional Ministers before abolishing *(a)* the regional structure of the Arts Council and *(b)* the regional offices of the Libraries, Museums and Archives Service. [292425]

Margaret Hodge: Decisions on the regional structure of the Arts Council England (ACE) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA) are primarily operational matters for the bodies in question. The Secretary of State has not specifically discussed these matters with regional Ministers.

Ashes 2009: Official Hospitality

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Ministers in his Department have accepted complimentary tickets to Test matches in the 2009 Ashes series. [289361]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Two Ministers from DCMS have accepted complimentary tickets for the 2009 Ashes series.

Coastal Areas: Finance

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to announce details of Wave 3 of the Sea Change funding programme. [290061]

Margaret Hodge: We hope to announce decisions on Wave 3 of the Sea Change programme shortly.

Conservation Areas: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has discussed with English Heritage the establishment of a policy on the use of household wheeled refuse containers in conservation areas. [290462]

Margaret Hodge: I have had no discussions with English Heritage about the establishment of a policy on the use of household wheeled refuse containers in conservation areas. I understand that English Heritage has no plans to establish such a policy, but that it has provided advice on this issue to local authorities, local civic societies and DCMS and other Government Departments when requested.

Cricket

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many registered community amateur cricket clubs there were in each region in each of the last 10 years. [289360]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) does not hold details of how many registered community amateur cricket clubs there were in each region in each of the last 10 years.

However, the ECB holds details of the number of community amateur cricket clubs registered as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) since CASC status was established in 2002[1].

[1] From 2004 publication of collated data changed from November to May of each year.

Registered cricket clubs

	Number
November 2002	25
November 2003	103
May 2004	314
May 2005	587
May 2006	758
May 2007	842
May 2008	953
May 2009	1,032

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* Blackberrys and *(c)* laptop computers issued to staff of his Department in the last 12 months were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following the (A) loss or (B) theft of a previous device. [290541]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has issued five devices following theft or loss as shown in the following table:

	(A) Loss		*(B) Theft*	
	New staff	*Existing staff*	*New staff*	*Existing staff*
(a) Mobile Phone	0	1	0	0
(b) Blackberry	0	1	0	2
(c) Laptop Computer	0	1	0	0

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1069W, on departmental marketing, how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [290294]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Brand activity is spread across the Department's corporate communications team. The estimated time spent on brand activity was 1.0 full-time equivalent. The staff cost was £45,432.50.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 496W, on departmental pay, who the employers are who are paying less than £7.45 an hour for work contracted out by his Department; what the nature of the work undertaken on each contract is; how many staff at each *(a)* payband and *(b)* location are working on each such contract; what the duration of each contract is; and what union recognition agreements are in place with each contractor. [285512]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 9 July 2009]:* All work contracted out by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, is undertaken at its central offices in London.

Supplier	*Nature of work*	*Payband*	*Number of staff*	*Duration of contract*	*Union recognition*
Baxter Storey Ltd	Front of house and catering	Supervisors—£7.06 per hour	4	30 September 2009	Employees are not associated with any trade union
		Commis Chefs—£6.50 per hour			
		Hospitality hosts—£6.68 per hour			
		Kitchen assistants—£6.00 per hour			
MITIE Facilities Management	Cleaning	Day janitors—£7.39 per hour	10	30 September 2009	MITIE recognises any official union their employees choose to join
		Out of hours supervisors—£7.00 per hour			
		Out of hours cleaners—£6.09 per hour			

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289744]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Minister for Creative Industries, my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon), has been appointed to the task of overseeing the delivery of value for money in the Department.

The Department does not currently have a public sector reform team.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290504]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department currently holds information on its work force database for recruitment for all seven equality strands: gender, gender identity, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religion and belief and disability. Prior to 2007, the Department monitored on four equality strands: gender, age, disability and ethnicity.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with overseas radio broadcasters whose signals are received in the UK on access to such services after radio digital switchover. [289363]

Mr. Simon: The Digital Radio Upgrade programme will affect only services licensed, and using frequencies allocated for use, in the UK. We recognise that some parts of the UK have access to overseas services; however, these are the result of overspill rather than the intended coverage. There is no legal right for consumer access to these services, which are under the jurisdiction of the relevant overseas authority. Accordingly, I have not had any discussions with overseas radio broadcasters whose signals can be received in the UK.

Entertainment: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there have been any recent discussions between officials of his Department and representatives of the film and television industry on the effectiveness of regulations on the use of animals in the film and television industry; and if he will review his Department's recommendations on the use of animals in the entertainment industry. [290339]

Mr. Simon: There have been no recent discussions with representatives of the film and television industry on the effectiveness of regulations on the use of animals in the film and television industry.

We last addressed this matter in 2008 when a meeting with stakeholders (including RSPCA) looked at the issue of animal welfare in the film and television industries and determined that there was not a welfare problem. It was concluded that new Government regulation would not be considered.

I have no plans to review the regulations on the use of animals in the film and television industry.

Gaming Machines: Taxation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer prior to Budget 2009 on changes to the tax treatment of amusement machines from Amusement Machine Licence Duty to Gross Profits Tax. [289498]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor his predecessor had discussions with HM Treasury Ministers about the change to Gross Profits Tax for amusement machines. The matter has been the subject of discussions between the Department and HM Treasury at official level since the budget.

Licensed Premises: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many premises in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire have had their licence to sell alcohol taken away since the implementation of the Licensing Act of 2003. [289425]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Licensing Act 2003, premises licences and club premises certificates are not always confined to the authorised sale or supply of alcohol; they also can provide regulated entertainment and/or late night refreshment.

The first DCMS statistical bulletin on alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, was published on 8 November 2007. This shows that, between April 2006 and March 2007, there were no completed reviews in the Dacorum licensing authority area (which covers Hemel Hempstead) and consequently no revocations. For the county of Hertfordshire as a whole, there were 13 completed reviews which resulted in 10 premises licences or club premises certificates having other conditions added or modified, two premises licences or club premises certificates being suspended and one premises licences revoked or club premises certificate withdrawn.

The second statistical bulletin, published on 30 October 2008 and covering the period between April 2007 and March 2008, shows that there were three completed reviews in the Dacorum licensing authority area which resulted in added or modified conditions to the premises licence or club premises certificates. For Hertfordshire as a whole, there were 19 completed reviews for this period which resulted in two premises licenses or club premises certificates being suspended and two premises licences being revoked or club premises certificates being withdrawn.

Since 6 April 2007, a premises licence can be suspended by a court under section 147B(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006) for the sale or supply of alcohol, following an offence of persistently selling to under-age children. No premises licenses or club premises certificates have been suspended on these grounds in Hertfordshire county for the most recent statistical bulletin period.

Licensing Act 2003

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to undertake a review of the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [291723]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None. The Licensing Act 2003 came fully into force on 24 November 2005. On 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 102-105WS, the then Secretary of State made a written statement announcing the completion and publication of his evaluation of the implementation of the Act. A copy of the full evaluation was also then placed in the Library of the House. The main elements of the evaluation included:

Scrutiny Councils Initiative: a final report was issued in July 2006 and an update published in 2008;

Independent Fees Panel Report: published on 25 January 2007;

Review of the Statutory Guidance: revised Guidance issued on 28 June 2007;

Live Music Forum Report: published 3 July 2007;

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin: published on 8 November 2007;

DCMS Simplification Plan: the 2nd Simplification Plan was published on 4 December 2007;

Closing times data commissioned by DCMS from CGA Strategy Ltd to analyse actual Saturday closing times-published on 4 March 2008; and

Home Office Report on the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder: published on 4 March 2008.

The Department continues to monitor the impact of the 2003 Act.

Monuments: Preservation

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds his Department makes available for preservation of war memorials. [292381]

Margaret Hodge: The Memorials Grant Scheme is administered by DCMS and operates UK-wide. It gives grants equivalent to the VAT incurred by charities and faith groups to establish or repair public memorial structures. It is not possible to say how much funding has been disbursed specifically to support war memorials, but the scheme has given grants worth almost £1.5 million in England since 2005, of which over £1.1 million has helped to establish the Armed Forces Memorial.

English Heritage is the Government-sponsored body responsible for protecting and promoting England's spectacular historic environment and ensuring that its past is researched and understood. Accordingly, English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation, in association with the War Memorials Trust, provide further grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England.

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what statutory powers he has in respect of the protection of war memorials in the UK. [292382]

Margaret Hodge: There are estimated to be more than 60,000 war memorials throughout the United Kingdom. Statutory designation through listing is the route by which war memorials can be protected as structures of special architectural of historic interest. Where a war memorial is listed or forms part of a listed building, the Secretary of State has the power to undertake urgent works or ultimately to compulsorily purchase it if proper steps are not being taken to preserve it. These powers fall in the first instance to local authorities. Any works to memorials that are listed buildings would require the relevant consent.

Olympic Games 2012: Developing Countries

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the International Inspiration programme to date; and where that money has been spent. [288085]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 20 July 2009]*: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

The International Inspiration programme is operating in Azerbaijan, Brazil, India, Palau, Zambia, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Jordan and Trinidad and Tobago and South Africa, with scoping visits having taken place in Ghana, Nigeria and Malaysia.

The total expenditure since the start of the programme in October 2007 until March 2009 has been £7,681,541.

Sports: Young People

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase participation rates in sport among young people in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Peterborough, *(d)* the East of England and *(e)* England; and if he will make a statement. [289240]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are not able to break down all investment in sport for young people to a local level. However, from 2008 to 2011 the Government are investing £783 million through the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP), building on the achievements of the previous national strategy and £1.5 billion invested between 2003-08.

We have expanded our ambition for PE and sport. As part of our Olympic Legacy promises, we want to create a world-class system for PE and sport in England and ensure every child has access to five hours of PE and sport per week, with three hours for 16 to 19-year-olds.

The Sport Unlimited programme (being delivered through the County Sport Partnership network) will target 900,000 semi-sporty young people by 2011 and provide a greater range of attractive and sustainable activities based on what young people want. It aims to reach 9,570 young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and 101,789 young people in the East of England.

In addition Sport England has a target of getting 1 million people doing more sport by 2012-13, which includes those aged 16 to 25. National governing bodies of sport (NGBs) are placed at the heart of Sport England's strategy as it is their networks of community clubs, coaches, officials and volunteers that will drive delivery. NGBs have just been awarded £480 million over the next four years to deliver their plans to grow and sustain participation and nurture those with sporting talent.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase participation rates in sport among young people in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire, *(d)* the South East of England and *(e)* England; and if he will make a statement. [290307]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are not able to break down all investment in sport for young people to a local level. However, from 2008 to 2011 the Government are investing £783 million through the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP), building on the achievements of the previous national strategy and £1.5 billion invested between 2003-08.

We have expanded our ambition for PE and sport. As part of our Olympic Legacy promises, we want to create a world-class system for PE and sport in England and ensure every child has access to five hours of PE and sport per week, with three hours for 16 to 19-year-olds.

The Sport Unlimited programme (being delivered through the County Sport Partnership network) will target 900,000 semi-sporty young people by 2011 and provide a greater range of attractive and sustainable activities based on what young people want. It aims to reach 22,968 young people in Hertfordshire and 129,105 young people in the South East.

In addition Sport England has a target of getting 1 million people doing more sport by 2012-13, which includes those aged 16 to 25. National governing bodies of sport (NGBs) are placed at the heart of Sport England's strategy as it is their networks of community clubs, coaches, officials and volunteers that will drive delivery. NGBs have just been awarded £480 million over the next four years to deliver their plans to grow and sustain participation and nurture those with sporting talent.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department plans to allocate to local authorities for the free swimming programme in each of the next five years. [289245]

Mr. Sutcliffe: £140 million has been allocated to local authorities to support the free swimming programme over the next two years; discussions will take place to decide funding of the free swimming programme beyond 2011.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria his Department uses to determine the amount of funding awarded to each local authority for the free swimming programme. [289247]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The funding for the free swimming programme for those aged 60 or over and 16 or under has been provided according to a formula based on the size of the local populations of those age groups in those local authorities who choose to opt into the scheme.

The capital reward funding for modernising pool provision payments was based on the total local population, using the latest mid-2006 census statistics.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many local authorities have opted into his Department's free swimming initiative. [289248]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 259 local authorities in England have opted into the free swimming programme for those aged 60 and over; 190 local authorities in England have agreed to take part in both the aged 60 and over and 16 and under elements of the free swimming programme.

Swimming: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* young and *(b)* elderly people who have participated in his Department's free swimming scheme in each Lancashire constituency in the last six months. [286792]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are closely monitoring the number of free swims that have taken place in both the 16 and under, and the 60 and over, elements of the free swimming programme and will publish the results shortly.

Television: Licensing

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many reminder letters were sent by TV Licensing to *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial addresses in (i) England and Wales and (ii) Rochford and Southend East constituency in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of these which relate to premises at which there is no means of receiving television programmes. [291389]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: This is a matter for the BBC and my Department does not hold this information. According to figures provided by the BBC, however, the number of reminder letters sent to residential and commercial addresses in England and Wales between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 is as follows:

	Number
Residential addresses	6,133,098
Commercial addresses	140,785

The BBC is unable to provide figures relating to Rochford and Southend, East constituencies as the BBC does not collect information by constituency area.

The BBC does not estimate the proportion of premises which do not have the means of receiving TV programmes. Instead, the BBC relies on individuals informing them that they do not require a licence.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pensioners resident in Bolton received a free television licence on the grounds that they are over the age of 75 years. [291642]

Mr. Bradshaw: I understand from the BBC that as at March 2009, the number of people in receipt of a free over 75 licence, where Bolton was listed as the postal town in which they lived, was 14,876. Please note that this does not cover all other towns/villages in the Bolton postcode area, but only those addresses where Bolton is listed as the postal town. It is also important to note that the number of free over 75 licences will not correspond directly to the number of over 75 residents in Bolton, as only one licence is needed per household.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the report Digital Britain: Attitudes to supporting non-BBC regional news from the TV licence fee cost to produce; and how much was paid to TNS-BMRB to carry out the polling in the report. [292152]

Mr. Bradshaw: The report Digital Britain: Attitudes to supporting non-BBC regional news from the TV licence fee was produced by TNS-BMRB to reflect and analyse the results of the polling contained within the report—this was one single piece of work for which they received one single commissioning and one single payment.

Following competitive tendering, TNS-BMRB were awarded the contract worth £61,340 excluding VAT, which included reporting.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Monitoring

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on monitoring air pollution in the latest year for which figures are available. [290260]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the financial year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, DEFRA spent £6,087,839 on monitoring air pollution, spread across 15 separate outsourced contracts. This addressed both the levels of pollutants in the air and their deposition either in the "dry" form or in rain. Breaking this figure down further:

£4,767,407 was spent on monitoring with the primary purpose of meeting the mandatory requirements of European legislation;

an additional £882,854 was spent on monitoring with the primary purpose of meeting other international obligations, either at EU or United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) level; and

£437,578 was spent on monitoring to provide additional information necessary to the development of air pollution policy in the UK.

Animal Welfare

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of animals which have died as a result of being left in cars in hot weather in each of the last five years. [290304]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No records are held centrally on this.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the penalties for those convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. [290358]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Animal Welfare Act 2006 is due to undergo a review of its effectiveness since it came into force in April 2007. As part of that review we will look at whether there is a need to increase the penalties.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has issued guidance on dogs left in cars and temperature. [290367]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Yes. DEFRA has published a leaflet; 'Protecting the welfare of pet dogs and cats during journeys', which includes guidance in respect of dogs overheating.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish codes of practice on the welfare of *(a)* dogs and *(b)* cats under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [290068]

Jim Fitzpatrick: At the end of last year, we completed a public consultation exercise on three draft codes—for the keeping of cats, dogs and equines. We are now considering the many responses we had to the consultation on each draft code and will then ask Parliament to approve the revised codes. Assuming Parliament approves the codes, they will come into force on 6 April 2010.

Animal Welfare: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on animal welfare-related initiatives in the last 12 months. [290352]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The administrative costs of the Animal Welfare Team in DEFRA were £1,153,087 for the 12 months from September 2008 to August 2009. During the same period, £767,151 was spent on animal welfare initiatives and delivery work. In addition, £2,963,372 was spent on animal welfare research and development in the 12 months from April 2008 to March 2009.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made a recent assessment of the effect on the level of funding for his Department's animal welfare initiatives of the recession. [290353]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers and officials keep the impact of the recession under review. No changes are considered to be necessary to the level of funding available for animal welfare initiatives.

Bees

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to protect the honey bee population; what recent assessment he has made of the level of threat to the health of them; and if he will make a statement. [291818]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA's bee health programme, undertaken by the Food and Environment Research Agency's (Fera) National Bee Unit, provides an advisory and inspection service as well as a substantial training and education programme, free of charge to all beekeepers.

In recognition of the increasing threats to honey bees, the 'Healthy Bees' plan was launched on 9 March and is aimed at sustaining honey bee health and beekeeping in England and Wales over the next decade. A key part of this is working more closely with a wide range of bee stakeholders on practical actions and priorities. Additional funding of £2.3 million has been allocated to Fera during 2009-2011 to put more inspectors out in the field and collect more information on the degree of threat to the health of honey bee colonies. An enhanced education programme will drive up beekeeping skills, particularly husbandry standards and disease awareness. Our improved understanding of the national position will feed into a more effective and focused disease control and surveillance programme.

DEFRA also commissions research on bee health and, in addition to funding an ongoing investigative programme at Fera, is contributing £2.5million to the insect pollinator initiative and has recently invited proposals for three additional projects on honey bees to be undertaken between November 2009 and March 2010.

Birds: Urban Areas

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding he has provided for research into the impact of seagull droppings on town centres in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* subsequent years; and if he will make a statement. [292153]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows:

(a) None

(b) None.

Coastal Areas

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many coastal change pathfinders he expects to be created following the consultation on coastal change policy; and if he will make a statement. [290054]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Consultation on Coastal Change Policy was launched alongside the pathfinder competition on 15 June 2009. It included a number of criteria against which bids from local authorities interested in becoming pathfinders will be assessed. The number of pathfinders that are created will depend on the nature of the bids received and how well they meet the published criteria.

The closing date for bids was 11 September 2009 and I can confirm that 20 bids have been received. These are now being assessed against the published criteria and I expect to announce the selected pathfinders later in the autumn.

Compost: Health Hazards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on public health of odour emissions from mushroom composting sites in England. [291238]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Mushroom composting operations which produce compost for sale are regulated under the local authority pollution control regime. It is intended shortly to extend this form of regulation to all mushroom composting operations. A key focus of such regulation is on the control of odour emissions, which can be particularly offensive. No assessment has been made of the effect of the odour emission on public health.

Delivery Unit

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what stocktake meetings his Department has had with the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in the last 12 months. [289943]

Dan Norris: The PMDU is in constant contact with Departments as part of its process of taking stock of delivery. It reports regularly to the PM, the Treasury and the Departments concerned.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289505]

Dan Norris: Please find as follows a table which indicates newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper for 2008.

Title/Display	*1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 total (£)*
Birmingham Evening Mail	1,400
Daily Mail	151,707
Daily Star	35,475
Daily Telegraph	59,856
Daily mirror	88,578
Daily Express	51,880
Guardian Weekend	3,600
Guardian	25,100
Independent	12,590
Independent on Sunday	1,900
Mail on Sunday—Live Magazine	52,750
Mail on Sunday	169,318
News of the World	102,443
Observer	6,200
Observer Magazine	3,500
Telegraph—Sat Magazine	7,000
Sunday Telegraph—7 Magazine	4,000
Sunday Mirror	64,206
Sunday Times Magazine	35,875
Sunday Times Review	51,500
Sunday Telegraph	23,310
Sun	184,231
Star Sunday	1,900
Sunday Express	29,722
Sunday Times	63,936
Times	85,897

Please find as follows costs for statutory and recruitment advertising. As a number of DEFRA's recruitment adverts are placed through the Cabinet Office framework as part of a whole advertising campaign (campaigns can include the preparation of application packs, advertisements, sifting and assessments) it is not possible to split out the advertising element at a proportionate cost.

Classified/Recruitment	*£*
National Press	3,091
Regional Press	1,966
Public Notices	27,523

Departmental Databases

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by his Department. [291845]

Dan Norris: DEFRA own and maintains a wide range of databases reflecting its diverse policy and regulatory functions. A full list could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

However, DEFRA's information asset register does provide details of many of the databases managed by the Department. This register is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/defra/available/iar/index.htm

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290526]

Dan Norris: The following table details the number of employees dismissed from DEFRA and its executive agencies in each of the last five years together with the reasons and associated costs where appropriate:

Financial year	Performance	Attendance	Misconduct	Costs (£)
2005-06	6	8	12	117,471.59
2006-07	10	[1,2]—	9	32,407.90
2007-08	12	12	9	24,371.99
2008-09	6	6	8	120,841.28
2009-10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] Withheld on confidentiality grounds

Notes:

1. The data are for DEFRA's executive agencies but not non departmental public bodies as sourcing this information can be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

2. Because of the small number of dismissals in these years, we cannot give figures because of the possibility of identifying individuals.

These dismissals were the result of staff undergoing procedures for unsatisfactory performance (including probation), unsatisfactory attendance and misconduct.

The Civil Service Management Code sets out the requirements for Departments to have procedures in place to deal with discipline, attendance and performance issues. All dismissals are conducted in line with DEFRA's misconduct, attendance and performance policies and procedures, which are available to staff via DEFRA's intranet.

The following table details the number of employees who have had their contract terminated as a result of redundancy in each of the last five years together with associated severance costs where appropriate:

Financial year	Number of redundancies	Costs (£)
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	22	400,000.00
2007-08	13	769,420.00
2008-09	8	200,000.00
2009-10	[1]—	[1]—

Notes:

1. The data are for DEFRA's executive agencies but not non departmental public bodies as sourcing this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost threshold.

2. Because of the small number of redundancies in this year, we cannot give figures because of the possibility of identifying individuals.

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290528]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and its agencies are committed to helping their staff to maintain a healthy work-life balance. Managers and employees are encouraged to think creatively about working patterns to help ensure the Department delivers a high quality service to its customers whilst accommodating the flexible working requests of its employees wherever possible.

In doing so, DEFRA meets the legal requirement to provide certain employees the right to request flexible working arrangements. Eligible employees are those responsible for bringing up a young (under 16) or disabled (under 18) child and those who are responsible for caring for an adult.

The flexible working practices in place for staff in DEFRA include:

Part-time working

Working compressed hours

Working flexi-time

Job share arrangements

Working from home.

DEFRA has also promoted the Civil Service Job Share website that was launched in May 2009 to help its employees find job share partners.

In terms of DEFRA'S flexi-time provisions, all staff below senior civil service (SCS) are eligible to apply to participate. The system allows employees to accrue time worked over and above their conditioned hours which they can then take in addition to their annual leave entitlement with approval from their manager.

Requests by staff to participate in the flexi-time arrangements are agreed, or otherwise, by line managers and no records are held centrally. These data can therefore be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers his Department employs. [291844]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs currently employs 18 full-time equivalent press officers.

Departmental Location

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's staff have their main place of work *(a)* in and *(b)* outside London. [291851]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the number of staff in DEFRA and its agencies that work in London offices and the number that work outside London. The figures are staff in post (headcount) as at 31 August 2009.

Department/agency	London-based	Outside London	Total
DEFRA	1,906	584	2,490
Animal Health	26	1,682	1,708
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	3	561	564
Food and Environment Research Agency	15	904	919
Marine and Fisheries Agency	99	102	201
Rural Payments Agency	0	3,326	3,326
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	0	1,331	1,331
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	0	153	153
Total	2,049	8,643	10,692

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each Civil Service payband. [290524]

Dan Norris: The average (median) length of service in years for staff in each grade in DEFRA and its agencies as at 31 March 2009 is shown in the following table.

Grade	*DEFRA*	*AH*	*CEFAS*	*CSL*	*GDS*	*MFA*	*RPA*	*VLA*	*VMD*
AA	7.8	4.0	1.3	3.9	n/a	6.6	13.2	6.3	8.4
AO	7.8	6.9	4.9	6.0	2.3	7.8	6.8	7.4	6.6
EO	7.1	9.8	7.8	9.7	[1]—	4.4	11.8	11.0	7.8
HEO	6.6	7.8	8.6	12.5	2.9	8.5	15.9	10.0	11.9
SEO	7.7	7.8	9.3	13.3	3.1	21.0	18.2	9.6	10.8
Grade 7	6.7	8.4	11.6	17.5	[1]—	7.2	17.6	19.1	8.2
Grade 6	6.9	15.6	21.2	24.7	[1]—	[1]—	16.9	19.2	12.4
SCS	7.8	6.8	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6.6	24.6	[1]—

[1] Where there are fewer than five staff in the grade, the information is withheld for confidentiality reasons.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1171W, on departmental marketing, how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [290293]

Dan Norris: One person in my Department is involved in branding activity on a regular basis dealing with questions from customers and stakeholders on use of the brand and the provision of logos and other collateral. This is not a full-time role. It occupies around 20 per cent. of the individual's time. The cost in 2008-09 is estimated to have been £10,700.

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the average duration of such leave was in each such year. [290527]

Dan Norris: DEFRA provides paternity leave to allow partners to support the prime carer and spend time with a new child following a birth or adoption.

The number of staff who took paternity leave and the average length of such leave in DEFRA and its agencies is shown in the following table.

	Number of staff	*Average length of leave (days)*
2004-05		
DEFRA, VMD	24	16
CEFAS	6	10
CSL	n/a	n/a
RPA	25	11
VLA	8	15
2005-06		
DEFRA, GDS, MFA, VMD	61	14
AH	10	12
CEFAS	10	13
CSL	n/a	n/a
RPA	24	11
VLA	11	15
2006-07		
DEFRA, GDS, MFA, VMD	38	14
AH	12	14
CEFAS	12	15
CSL	n/a	n/a
RPA	26	16
VLA	20	15
2007-08		
DEFRA, GDS, MFA, VMD	35	14
AH	20	14
CEFAS	8	15
CSL	6	10
RPA	36	17
VLA	19	15
2008-09		
DEFRA, GDS, MFA, VMD	35	14
AH	20	14
CEFAS	6	15
CSL	8	10
RPA	32	16
VLA	19	15

Key:
AH = Animal Health Agency
CEFAS = Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CSL = Central Science Laboratory
GDS = Government Decontamination Service
MFA = Marine and Fisheries Agency
RPA = Rural Payments Agency
VLA = Veterinary Laboratories Agency
VMD = Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290530]

Dan Norris: In addition to base pay, DEFRA operates a number of performance related pay schemes which are available to all staff in the Department.

For the Senior Civil Service (SCS)

Non-consolidated performance related variable pay rewards in-year performances in relation to agreed objectives, or short term personal contribution to wider organisational objectives. Such payments are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count towards pension.

Performance related variable pay is allocated by Departments from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the SCS salary bill, which is agreed centrally each year following the Senior Salaries Review Body recommendations. The intention is that such payments should be differentiated in order to recognise those who have performed most significantly during the year.

The following table shows the number and total amount of performance payments awarded to SCS in core-DEFRA and its Executive Agencies in each of the last four years. Due to systems changes, data prior to 2005-06 are available only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of payments	£ *Total value*
2005-06	143	722,000
2006-07	137	1,033,500
2007-08	135	1,269,056
2008-09	133	1,286,625

For staff at Grade 6 and below

The performance related variable pay scheme provides staff in DEFRA and those agencies covered by the core-Department's reward arrangements, with recognition and reward for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance that significantly exceeds normal expectations. The process provides staff at all grades with an opportunity to earn such an award, and ensure that achievements in operational, policy and corporate services areas are recognised as being of equal esteem. Such payments are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count toward pension.

There are two types of award:

In-year performance payments, up to a maximum of £750, paid to individuals or teams in recognition of one-off achievements during the year; and

Annual performance payments that, in 2007 and 2008, were paid to the top 10 per cent. of performers for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance sustained throughout the whole year.

The following table shows the number and total amount of annual and in-year performance payments awarded to staff in core-DEFRA (including staff who transferred to DECC in October 2008) and those Executive Agencies covered by DEFRA terms and conditions at that time. Due to systems changes, data prior to 2005-06 are available only at disproportionate cost.

		In-year payments	*Annual payments*
2005-06	Total value (£)	789,814	1,815,183
	Number of payments	2,234	1,999
2006-07	Total value (£)	744,758	1,401,884
	Number of payments	1,844	576
2007-08	Total value (£)	593,603	1,345,361
	Number of payments	1,403	524
2008-09	Total value (£)	615,388	1,127,515
	Number of payments	1,439	489

Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment because payments have to be earned each year. They help drive high performance in Departments and agencies and support better public service delivery.

Details of the number and total amounts of payments made under the reward schemes in DEFRA's Executive Agencies not covered by DEFRA's terms and conditions are provided as follows.

Rural Payments Agency

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) operates an Annual Appraisal 'Exceeded' performance payment scheme and Special Recognition Scheme, similar to DEFRA's in-year performance payments.

Details of staff who have received payments are shown as follows:

	Payments in financial year				
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total value of exceeded payments (£)	261,832	183,318	253,038	370,020	441,004
Number of payments	523	538	505	547	566
Total value of special recognition scheme payments (£)	—	—	—	22,970	57,820
Number of payments	—	—	—	265	560

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
1. Performance Related Pay

					£000
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Corporate performance pay	410	496	538	690	528
Individual performance related pay	130	155	155	161	350
Total staff	523	508	520	508	522

Notes:
The CEFAS performance related pay (PRP) scheme has varied in recent years. It comprises a "corporate performance pay" element payable to eligible staff as well as an "individual performance related pay" (iPRP) element for a smaller proportion of staff. In 2008-09 the weighting of the iPRP element was increased while the corporate pay element decreased. The table shows total costs charged, including CEFAS NI contributions, for both the corporate and iPRP elements.
A summary of the 2008-09 scheme allows for:
A Corporate performance element for eligible staff (as per total staff) of 2.2 per cent. of salary, explicitly linked to achievement of agreed agency targets. A further corporate performance "growth" element for all eligible staff of up to 1.3 per cent. of salary could be awarded, this must be self-funded and is explicitly linked to generation of additional income from sources other than DEFRA.
An iPRP element awarded at two levels, 4 per cent. or 8 per cent., for approximately 25 per cent. and 15 per cent. of staff respectively.

2. CEFAS Staff Recognition Schemes

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Staff spot recognition total cost (£000)	12	12	14	14	14
Number of employees/awards	244	244	284	284	278

Staff Spot Recognition Scheme

The scheme is open to all staff, excluding Board Members, and is awarded in recognition of an outstanding piece of work or contribution to CEFAS. The awards are presented as £50 vouchers for M&S and are allocated pro rata across divisions.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Staff Suggestions/Innovations Scheme

		£
	Number of payments	*Total value*
2004-05	0	—
2005-06	4	175
2006-07	1	75
2007-08	0	—
2008-09	2	200

Annual performance payments

		£
	Number of payments	*Total value*
2004-05	133	30,777
2005-06	148	35,034
2006-07	162	39,120
2007-08	180	45,357
2008-09	195	47,409

Team Rewards

		£
	Number of payments	*Total value*
2004-05	66	4,925
2005-06	78	4,925
2006-07	89	6,175
2007-08	32	1,605
2008-09	31	2,400

Inventors Royalties

		£
	Number of payments	*Total value*
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	—
2006-07	—	—
2007-08	—	—
2008-09	3	2,060

Food and Environment Research Agency

Annual performance payments

		£
	Number of payments	*Total value*
2004-05	415	140,000
2005-06	256	131,000
2006-07	256	177,000
2007-08	327	237,000
2008-09	318	253,000

Intellectual Property Awards—rewards innovation and invention

		£
	Number of payments	*Total value*
2004-05	0	—
2005-06	11	4,300
2006-07	6	800
2007-08	32	20,700
2008-09	5	500

Departmental Public Expenditure

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding each of his Department's *(a)* Executive agencies and *(b)* sponsored bodies received in the last five years; and how much each will receive in the (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11 financial years. [289681]

Dan Norris: The figures in the following tables reflect the actual administration, programme and capital expenditure for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09; and planned administration, programme and capital budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 by each of the Department's *(a)* Executive agencies and *(b)* sponsored bodies:

(a) Executive Agencies

£ million

	Actual					*Budget*	
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Animal Health	—	91.0	98.8	109.2	134.7	126.7	112.4
Marine Fisheries Agency	—	21.5	25.1	24.7	27.9	23.5	22.8
Rural Payments Agency (operational costs)	239.1	227.8	242.2	244.5	230.7	202.3	179.0

DEFRA's other Executive Agencies—the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA), the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)—recover their full economic costs through charges made to customers for services provided.

(b) Key sponsored bodies

£ million

	Actual					Budget	
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
British Waterways Board[1]	59.7	66,2	56.0	57.4	62.7	58.3	48.6
Commission for Rural Communities	—	—	5.1	7.4	6.3	6.4	6.1
Environment Agency[2]	498.5	573.1	554.5	599.6	715.7	762.6	799.9
Gangmasters Licensing Authority	—	3.2	2.6	3.1	3.1	4.3	4.0
Joint Nature Conservation Committee[3]	—	—	—	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Keep Britain Tidy	5.7	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.8
National Forest Company	3.3	4.2	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.5
National Parks[4]	35.8	42.1	43.1	44.2	46.8	47.6	48.9
Natural England[5]	—	—	194.6	181.0	223.7	213.5	168.2
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	24.9	25.5	25.2	25.2	26.6	28.5	25.5
Waste and Resources Action Programme[6]	45.7	68.2	57.9	58.8	42.6	56.6	51.9

[1] £5 million of capital grant was brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 for infrastructure projects under the Government's fiscal stimulus initiative.

[2] Excludes the Agency's Closed Pension Fund. £20 million of capital grant was brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 for flood risk management work as part of the Government's fiscal stimulus initiative.

[3] Prior to 2007-08, DEFRA did not fund JNCC directly. DEFRA funding to JNCC was provided through English Nature and its successor body Natural England. Funding for JNCC was also provided by the devolved administrations through Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales and, from 2006-07, the Northern Ireland Department of Environment.

[4] Covers funding for existing National Parks and the Broads Authority. Funding for the new South Downs National Park is excluded as there will not be an Authority until 2010-11 at the earliest and the grant has yet to be agreed.

[5] Figures for NE represent DEFRA core funding plus annually agreed elements for cost neutral recharges for common services such as IT and HR support. The recharges for 2010-11 have yet to be finalised and are therefore not included in the 2010-11 budget figures.

[6] Data for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 is based on grant claimed by WRAP from DEFRA. Data for 2009-10 is based on DEFRA's grant offer to WRAP. Data for 2010-11 is based on DEFRA's indicative grant offer to WRAP. As a result of the implementation of the Delivery Landscape Review, data for 2009-10 and 2010-11 includes funding previously provided separately by DEFRA to Action Sustainability, Centre for Remanufacturing and Reuse, BREW Centre for local authorities, Envirowise, Construction Resources and Waste Platform and the National Industrial Symbiosis programme. Data for 2009-10 includes funding provided in Budget 2009 for capital expenditure on anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting infrastructure.

Since 2007-08, the costs of funding JNCC have been shared by the four sponsoring administrations according to a funding formula whereby DEFRA alone funds the costs of JNCC's work on reserved matters such as marine work beyond territorial waters, overseas territories and international conventions. This element of the budget is set out in the table above. The remaining costs are shared by DEFRA (49.25 per cent.) funded through Natural England; Scottish Executive (29 per cent.) funded through Scottish Natural Heritage; Welsh Assembly Government (14.5 per cent.) funded through the Countryside Council for Wales; and DOE Northern Ireland (7.25 per cent.). The full GIA figures for JNCC, including contributions from the devolved administrations, are as follows

	£ million
2004-05	5.9
2005-06	6.3
2006-07	6.8
2007-08	7.9
2008-09	7.8
2009-10	7.8
2010-11	—

In 2009-10, further funding (£1.5 million) has been made available from the DEFR Marine programme to JNCC for the establishment and monitoring of marine protected areas/marine conservation zones (MPAs/MCZs) and broader marine biodiversity monitoring needs.

Only the DEFRA funding for JNCC's work on reserved matters has so far been determined for 2010-11. The costs to be shared amongst the four sponsoring administrations and DEFRA marine funding have yet to be agreed.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289741]

Dan Norris: The Secretary of State is responsible for overseeing the delivery of value for money within the Department.

The Department is committed to reforming public services to improve services for the citizen, and various teams are working closely with colleagues in the centre of Government on this important agenda.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290505]

Dan Norris: Information on the diversity of Government departments, including DEFRA, is published annually and is available via the link provided at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Information on the DEFRA employee diversity profile as at 31 March 2008 was published in the Diversity Workforce Monitoring Report and data for 31 March 2009 will be published later in the year.

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/diversity/pdf/workforce-monitoring-report-2008.pdf

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each of the last five years. [290523]

Dan Norris: An estimate of the cost of sickness absence in DEFRA and its agencies in each of the last two financial years is shown in the following table. Comparable costs for earlier years are unavailable.

	£ million
2007-08	9.7
2008-09	9.6

There is no agreed method of calculating the cost of sickness absences in the civil service. DEFRA has calculated the annual cost by multiplying the number of working days lost due to sickness in each grade by the average salary for that grade. No account has been taken of staff on long-term sick who are on reduced or no pay, which would reduce the totals.

DEFRA manages sickness absences in line with its sickness absence policy. This includes facilitating timely employee access to occupational health advice, medical or well-being interventions. Long-term sick employees are encouraged to return to work on a programme of recuperative duties where appropriate. All individuals returning to work from sickness absence will have a 'welcome back' discussion with their manager.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289689]

Dan Norris: The information requested is not held centrally, as training budgets are delegated to divisions and individual managers within the Department.

As a consequence the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision is made to enable students to undertake work experience in his Department; by what means members of the public may obtain information about work experience in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [288730]

Dan Norris: Work experience is currently provided in DEFRA as follows:

Five graduates in their penultimate year of undergraduate study are currently on placements with DEFRA which commenced on 6 July 2009, three via the Cabinet Office Summer Development Programme (ethnic minorities) and two from the Summer Placement Scheme (disability).

We have also provided two further placements to interns, one on a four-week short-term contract and one on a voluntary basis.

These paid periods of work experience last for 12 weeks, and are intended to develop interns' work skills and increase their employability.

Members of the public may obtain information on this type of work experience directly from civil service/Cabinet Office recruitment material and via their school/university careers service.

Additionally, DEFRA receives requests for ad hoc periods of work experience from both school and university students. Where possible, provision for this is made at local level subject to legal requirements and departmental workload.

Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department was represented at the RSPCA Status Dogs summit 2009. [290369]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Yes. The summit was attended by DEFRA's Chief Veterinary Officer, who delivered a presentation, and by an official from the Department.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will issue guidance on the desirable frequency of collection of household waste in hot weather. [290435]

Dan Norris: The frequency with which a local authority collects household waste is a matter for that authority to decide. The Government believe local authorities are best placed to make these local operational decisions and so does not interfere.

However, the Government do have a role in ensuring that local authorities are as well informed as possible when making their decisions on waste collection and recycling services. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), through its Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team (ROTATE), is able to advise local authorities on the available options.

Employment Tribunals Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times his Department has been taken to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; what the reason cited in each case was; and in how many cases the tribunal found in favour of the *(a)* employee and *(b)* Department. [290525]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and its Executive agencies have been taken to an employment tribunal 13 times in the last five years. As the number of employment tribunals in each of the last five years is such a small number, we cannot give further details because of the possibility of giving away the identity of the individuals concerned.

EU Law

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* letters of warning, *(b)* infringement notices and *(c)* prosecutions have been instigated by the European Commission against his Department and its predecessor in relation to EU directives since May 1997; and what the reasons for the Commission's action were in each case. [290257]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Commission's procedures in relation to formal infringement proceedings against EU member states are based on Article 226 and Article 228 of the treaty establishing the European Community. They provide for a staged approach to infringement action comprising:

Article 226:

(a) Letter putting a member state on formal notice of a possible breach of the EC treaty;

(b) Formal determination, or Reasoned Opinion, by the Commission that a member state is in breach of the treaty; and

(c) Referral to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) for a ruling that a member state is in breach.

Article 228:

(a) Letter putting a member state on formal notice of possible failure to comply with a judgment of the ECJ under Article 226;

(b) Reasoned Opinion that a member state has failed to comply with a ECJ judgment under Article 226;

(c) Referral to the ECJ for a ruling that member state is in breach of its treaty obligations and application for a financial penalty.

On this basis, the relevant information in respect of this Department and its predecessors since May 1997 is:

	Reasons for Commission's action		
Stage	*Non-communication*[1]	*Non-conformity*[2]	*Non-application*[3]
Article 226 Formal Notice	99	11	40
Article 226 Reasoned Opinion	24	6	5
Article 226 ECJ Referral	7	2	6
Article 228 Formal Notice	0	4	3
Article 228 Reasoned Opinion	0	2	2
Article 228 ECJ Referral	0	0	1

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[1] Domestic transposition measures are not notified to the Commission on time.

[2] Transposition legislation is in some way inadequate.

[3] Otherwise timely and technically adequate legislation is alleged to be improperly implemented on the ground.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what transposition date his Department has set in respect of each EU directive relating to the environment which has entered into force since May 1997. [290259]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The analysis required to compile this information from records held by DEFRA would incur disproportionate costs.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has authorised sites in Hertfordshire for use for experiments relating to genetically-modified crops. [289427]

Dan Norris: Between 1994 and 2002 we authorised experimental trials of GM crop plants to take place at various sites in Hertfordshire, as set out in the following table. No trials have taken place in Hertfordshire since 2003.

Town or village	*Ordnance Survey grid reference*	*Crop type*
Piccotts End	TL 048 098	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 049 095	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 049 101	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 05 10[1]	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 051 050	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 051 102	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 051 103	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 052 101	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 052 105	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 053 100	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL054 104	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 055 103	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 066 114	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 067 117	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 068 115	Oilseed rape
Piccotts End	TL 069 118	Oilseed rape
Redbourn	TL 105 132	Oilseed rape
Redbourn	TL 110 129	Fodder beet
Albury	TL 422 233	Oilseed rape
Albury	TL 422 234	Oilseed rape
Albury	TL 431 232	Oilseed rape
Patmore Heath	TL 46 25[1]	Oilseed rape
Northchurch	SP 97 11[1]	Oilseed rape
Harpenden	TL 121 620	Wheat
Harpenden	TL 122 131	Wheat
Harpenden	TL 124 136	Wheat
Harpenden	TL 124 137	Wheat
Harpenden	TL 125 137	Wheat
Harpenden	TL 118 130	Maize
Harpenden	TL 121 140	Tobacco
Harpenden	TL 13 13[1]	Potato

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[1] Best available information

Greyhound Racing: Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons greyhound racing tracks affiliated to the Greyhound Board of Great Britain are exempt from the proposed new licensing requirements for the promotion of the welfare of racing greyhounds. [290355]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The regulations we have proposed will only exempt tracks that are affiliated to a body that has gained United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) status in respect of the enforcement of the standards set down in the regulations. Only if the Greyhound Board of Great Britain secures UKAS accreditation as an enforcement body for the standards in the regulations will any track affiliated to it be exempt. Not to exempt such tracks would, in effect, mean that these tracks would be inspected by two different bodies for the same welfare standards.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the introduction of regulations for the promotion of the welfare of racing greyhounds. [290356]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have recently published the summary of the responses to the public consultation we held on our proposals to introduce regulations to promote the welfare of racing greyhounds. As indicated in the summary, we intend to lay regulations before Parliament this autumn. Subject to approval by Parliament, it is our intention that these regulations would come into force on 6 April 2010.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which animal welfare organisations his Department has consulted as part of its review of regulations relating to the welfare of racing greyhounds. [290357]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Many animal welfare organisations submitted responses to the recent DEFRA consultation on proposals for racing greyhound regulations. The summary of the responses to the consultation, which we have recently published on our website, provides a full list of all the organisations that responded. Prior to the public consultation, DEFRA formed a number of working groups to help advise on the contents of the regulations. As well as representatives of the industry, veterinarians and local authorities, representatives of welfare groups were also represented. These included the Dogs Trust, the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports.

Hartlepool Power Station

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the Environment Agency's investigation into the maintenance of ventilation stack monitors at Hartlepool nuclear power station; and if he will make a statement. [289717]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Environment Agency and British Energy have worked to ensure that a replacement project completed in March 2009, has provided equipment suitable for continued operations. All seven replacement ventilation stack sampling systems are in operation and the Environment Agency will continue to monitor the performance of these systems.

Hazardous Substances: Waste Disposal

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of levels of illegal export of hazardous waste materials to Brazil; and if he will make a statement. [289686]

Dan Norris: The UK was informed by the Government of Brazil of up to 100 containers at ports in Brazil alleged to contain potentially hazardous waste materials. As the competent authority for the waste shipment controls in England and Wales, the Environment Agency commenced an investigation and contacted the Brazilian authorities to establish the precise nature of the alleged illegal activities. The shipping lines contracted to transport the containers from the UK to Brazil agreed to repatriate the containers to the UK at their own expense. 81 containers have now been returned. The remaining containers are due back in the UK later in September. The Environment Agency is carrying out an investigation of the containers and will then ensure the waste is handled and disposed of correctly.

Incinerators: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with Ministers and officials of (i) the Department for Communities and Local Government and (ii) the Department of Energy and Climate Change on implementation of the provisions of the EU Waste Incineration Directive. [291992]

Dan Norris: No recent meetings have been held between officials from DEFRA, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department of Energy and Climate Change about the implementation of the Waste Incineration Directive.

Industrial Waste: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure that trade waste collected by local authorities is classified as such and not as municipal waste. [291964]

Dan Norris: Commercial waste collected by a local authority is, and should be classified as, municipal waste. Therefore, we will not be taking any steps to stop local authorities classifying it as such.

Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the outcome was of the meeting of the inter-departmental ministerial group on biodiversity on 11 May 2009. [290383]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The meeting of the inter-departmental ministerial group on biodiversity (IDMGB) on 11 May 2009 was the final meeting of Ministers from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and led to agreement of the Government's Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the UK Overseas Territories. The Strategy was approved by ministerial correspondence between the three Departments in July.

Among other things, the Strategy establishes an official-level group comprising the three Departments mentioned above, and additional Government and non-governmental organisations as necessary. The first meeting of this group took place on 29 September.

Joint Waste Authorities

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with waste authorities on the creation of further joint waste authorities. [290433]

Dan Norris: No joint waste authorities have yet been established, though several groups of authorities are exploring the creation of advanced waste partnerships in their areas. DEFRA Ministers have had no discussions with waste authorities on this subject.

Landfill: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of progress towards meeting the 2010 targets for waste management set under EU Landfill Directive; and what recent steps his Department has taken to meet these targets; [291687]

(2) what progress has been made towards meeting the 2010 targets for waste management under the EU landfill directive; and what steps have been taken to meet these targets. [292150]

Dan Norris: England is making good progress towards meeting its share of the UK's landfill diversion targets for biodegradable municipal waste set in the EU landfill directive. Overall considerable progress has been made in recent years and England sent less to landfill in 2007-08 than its 2010 target.

The devolved Administrations are responsible for delivering their proportion of the UK targets, and are best placed to make assessments of progress made in their respective areas.

The targets to reduce biodegradable municipal waste to landfill have required local authorities to find more sustainable ways to deal with the waste they collect. They have made substantial progress and should be congratulated on their efforts. DEFRA continues to offer advice and support to their efforts, including providing £2.5 billion in PFI credits to date to promote the procurement of waste treatment infrastructure.

Meat: Smuggling

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many seizures of illegal meat imports there were in each of the last five years. [291908]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of seizures of illegal meat imports in each of the last five years.

These figures include the number and weight of seizures made from non-European Union (EU) countries by the United Kingdom Border Agency at points of entry in Great Britain, those made by inland local/port health authorities where they were able to establish that the illegal products came from non-EU countries and those made by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) at points of entry in Northern Ireland.

1 April to 31 March each year	*Number of seizures*	*Weight (kg)*
2008-09	11,356	76,903
2007-08	14,158	76,718
2006-07	19,254	90,327
2005-06	14,826	106,135
2004-05	10,987	78,664

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 8 June 2009, on single supplements levied by hotels. [289867]

Dan Norris: I have not received a copy of the hon. Member's letter. If the hon. Member would like to resend it, I shall be happy to deal with it.

Metals: Recycling

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will defer making regulations to implement the review of waste exemptions from environmental permitting until planning guidance relating to the metals recycling sector has been put in place. [291498]

Dan Norris: We will not defer making regulations to implement the review of waste exemptions from environmental permitting. We propose to lay regulations to come into force in April 2010 that will provide new and amended waste exemptions from the need for an environmental permit for a range of waste operations that pose a low environmental risk. Exemptions provide 'lighter touch' regulation and will encourage more businesses to take up waste recycling and recovery. At the same time, we will limit the extent of the exemptions for some higher risk waste operations that will in the future be subject to increased controls through an environmental permit.

The Government response to the consultation on the review of waste exemptions from environmental permitting, published on 11 September 2009, provides a commitment to work with industry and others to identify the scale of the potential impact on the metal recycling sector and we will take forward a range of measures to assist legitimate operators to establish their planning status for the purposes of obtaining an environmental permit. We are also proposing a three and a half year transitional period for existing metal recycling operators to obtain a permit where they will no longer benefit from an exemption.

Nature Conservation: Finance

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated to the targeted species recovery component of the new framework for delivering priority habitats and species in England launched by Natural England in November 2008. [290073]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA, including its agencies, Natural England and the Environment Agency, allocated £2,170,000 in 2008-09 to the targeted recovery of species afforded conservation priority in England by the new delivery framework. It is anticipated that £2,586,000 will be allocated in 2009-10.

Overseas Trade: Israel

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish guidance to retailers on the labelling of products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank; and what organisations and individuals he has consulted on the matter in the last 12 months. [290359]

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will publish the voluntary guidelines issued to UK supermarkets in March 2009 on the labelling of goods produced in Israeli settlements in the West Bank occupied Palestinian Territories; [291561]

(2) when his Department plans to hold a consultation on the labelling of Israeli settlement goods. [291518]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have been exploring the possibility of improving the clarity of labelling of produce from the West Bank. Earlier this year, the Cabinet Office held a meeting with a group of interested parties to discuss the possibility of introducing some voluntary guidance, so that consumers could better understand which products came from occupied Palestinian territories. The Government are considering the next steps following that discussion.

Pesticides

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the use of pesticides by local authorities. [291731]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The only representation received on the use of pesticides by local authorities was from the Pesticide Action Network UK. The correspondent was advised DEFRA has responsibility for such matters.

Pets: Animal Welfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to reduce the number of pets abandoned by UK nationals emigrating from the UK. [291700]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The act of abandoning an animal is an example of failing to provide for its welfare needs and so is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Punishment for such an offence is a fine of up to £5,000 or six months' imprisonment, or both.

Neither enforcement agencies nor animal welfare charities have made us aware that there is a significant problem of animals being abandoned by people emigrating from this country.

Plastic Bags

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the *(a)* use and *(b)* provision of plastic carrier bags. [289528]

Dan Norris: A voluntary agreement between the Government and Britain's leading supermarkets (represented by the British Retail Consortium (BRC)) aimed to cut the number of single -use carrier bags they provided by 50 per cent. by the end of May 2009, against 2006 levels.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) which has been monitoring the agreement, reported that retailers only narrowly missed the target, achieving a reduction of 48 per cent. across the UK. These are significant results achieved solely on a voluntary basis, and the Government, BRC and the retailers it represents are working to continue reducing the number of bags distributed with a shared goal for a long-term reduction of 70 per cent. As part of the agreement, the Government, the BRC and WRAP launched a publicity campaign earlier this year encouraging consumers to 'Get A Bag Habit'—and remember to reuse their carrier bags when shopping.

Private Finance Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* obtained the private finance initiative credits announced in Budget 2009. [292149]

Dan Norris: Since 6 April 2009, of the waste projects included in the Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review there has been:

(a) One project consisting of three waste disposal authorities namely, Coventry City Council in partnership with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council under the name "Project Transform". This project received approval from HM Treasury's Project Review Group in May 2009.

(b) One project, Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority's waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) awarded credits in April 2009 by DEFRA. The Authority submitted a claim form for PFI annuity grant (PFI Revenue Support payments) in August 2009.

Recycling: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of waste arising from each local authority area in the East of England was recycled in each of the last five years. [289397]

Dan Norris: The table shows the municipal recycling rate for all local authorities in the East of England for the financial years 2003-04 through to 2007-08. This includes waste sent for recycling, composting and reuse.

There are some data missing for 2004-05 due to WastedataFlow being introduced that year and about half of authorities not submitting data.

Municipal recycling rate

Percentage

Authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Luton Borough Council	17.8	20.5	25.0	30.0	33.3
South Bedfordshire District Council	11.2	13.9	28.4	31.6	38.6
Mid Bedfordshire District Council	10.6	28.6	31.7	31.4	36.5
Bedford Borough Council	9.9	n/a	22.5	25.5	28.2

Municipal recycling rate

					Percentage
Authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
South Cambridgeshire District Council	26.5	44.3	46.5	48.7	51.2
Peterborough City Council	28.2	27.9	32.1	40.1	43.2
Huntingdonshire District Council	21.0	n/a	46.6	50.8	54.1
Fenland District Council	7.0	18.6	29.2	43.8	46.8
East Cambridgeshire District Council	12.4	n/a	31.1	35.0	35.5
Cambridge City Council	21.5	29.5	33.7	34.7	37.2
Thurrock Council	15.1	20.1	22.6	26.4	29.7
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	21.6	n/a	25.0	31.6	36.3
Uttlesford District Council	16.7	n/a	22.9	38.3	48.8
Tendring District Council	15.3	n/a	21.4	22.9	26.8
Rochford District Council	10.1	n/a	14.7	17.1	19.3
Maldon District Council	17.5	n/a	27.7	32.7	34.9
Harlow District Council	13.2	15.2	18.3	20.5	22.5
Epping Forest Borough Council	19.5	n/a	23.5	37.0	41.0
Colchester Borough Council	23.4	30.5	28.6	30.1	30.5
Chelmsford Borough Council	20.6	29.0	30.0	31.3	32.7
Castle Point Borough Council	17.0	n/a	23.5	25.9	27.1
Brentwood Borough Council	14.4	n/a	28.2	29.5	37.2
Braintree District Council	19.9	27.5	30.9	33.3	40.6
Basildon District Council	17.9	18.5	20.1	24.9	30.5
Welwyn Hatfield Council	16.8	17.6	26.2	26.0	28.8
Watford Borough Council	19.0	22.2	32.0	29.9	30.1
Three Rivers District Council	16.9	n/a	37.3	40.7	43.4
Stevenage Borough Council	15.5	n/a	25.3	25.2	26.2
St. Albans City and District Council	19.0	21.8	28.2	32.3	36.3
North Hertfordshire District Council	15.9	15.6	24.8	31.3	37.8
Hertsmere Borough Council	11.0	12.7	22.9	27.7	27.5
East Hertfordshire District Council	13.2	18.2	23.2	26.2	29.4
Dacorum Borough Council	14.7	24.3	33.2	39.8	42.3
Broxbourne Borough Council	14.0	n/a	25.5	26.2	28.2
South Norfolk Council	17.2	22.4	27.4	30.7	36.4
Norwich City Council	12.9	14.0	15.4	18.2	23.6
North Norfolk District Council	14.4	27.5	35.31	40.0	43.2
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	13.3	n/a	18.0	26.6	32.4
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	7.1	9.3	17.3	25.7	26.3
Broadland District Council	25.6	41.3	42.0	45.6	47.4
Breckland Council	26.1	34.9	35.4	38.2	41.6
Waveney District Council	12.0	30.4	44.9	44.2	47.8
Suffolk Coastal District Council	22.2	25.8	30.8	36.2	39.6
St. Edmundsbury Borough Council	31.0	45.8	43.1	45.4	45.5
Mid Suffolk District Council	17.9	24.3	27.2	36.8	37.8
Ipswich Borough Council	14.4	25.5	32.6	32.3	36.3
Forest Heath District Council	26.9	n/a	41.3	42.6	42.7
Babergh District Council	22.2	33.1	33.9	34.4	36.4

Source:
WasteDataFlow and DEFRA's Municipal Waste Management Survey.

Stray Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on animal welfare of the transfer of responsibility for stray dogs from local police forces to local authorities; and if he will make a statement; [290471]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on animal welfare of the transfer of responsibility for stray dogs from local police forces to local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [290470]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In April 2008 responsibility for dealing with stray dogs was removed from the police who had shared this role with local authorities. Sole responsibility now rests with local authorities, who already have arrangements in place to collect and house strays. An additional £4 million per year has been provided to local authorities to cover this additional responsibility.

No assessment has been made of the effects of this change in responsibility on animal welfare.

Trapping

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have been prosecuted under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in relation to the use of glue traps to date. [289938]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No records are held centrally on this.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made on the effectiveness of glue traps in pest control of their use by non-professionals. [292095]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has not made any recent assessment of the effectiveness of glue traps in pest control when used by non-professionals.

Waste Management: EU Law

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will defer making regulations to implement the review of waste exemptions from environmental permitting until the EU Waste Framework Directive has been transposed into UK law. [291499]

Dan Norris: We will not defer making regulations to implement the review of waste exemptions from environmental permitting. We propose to lay regulations to come into force in April 2010 that will provide new and amended waste exemptions from the need for an environmental permit for a range of waste operations that pose a low environmental risk. Exemptions provide 'lighter touch' regulation and will encourage more businesses to take up waste recycling and recovery. At the same time, we will limit the extent of the exemptions for some higher risk waste operations that will in the future be subject to increased controls through an environmental permit.

There is no reason to delay the benefits and savings that will result from the regulations until the revised EU Waste Framework Directive is transposed. The revised Directive contains similar provisions to the existing Directive, and gives member states discretion to provide exemptions from permitting subject to certain conditions.

Waste Management: Nuisance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the use of enforcement powers in relation to statutory nuisances caused by activities associated with waste management regulated by the Environment Agency. [290434]

Dan Norris: In April 2008, the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 came into force. The regulations replaced and brought together the previous waste management licensing and Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) systems under one environmental permitting regime.

A consequence of this regulatory change is that local authorities now require the consent of the Secretary of State before instituting proceedings for statutory nuisances such as odour, noise, smoke, dust, artificial light and accumulations from a waste operation (i.e. a site regulated by the Environment Agency under an environmental permit or requiring registration as an exempt waste operation). Prior to April 2008, the Secretary of State's consent was only required in respect of the PPC regime.

The changes to the statutory nuisance provisions were made to avoid an operator being subject to 'double jeopardy'; i.e. to ensure a local authority may not begin summary proceedings against an operator for nuisance, where proceedings can be brought by the Environment Agency under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. DEFRA officials are currently working with relevant stakeholders (i.e. the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and the Environment Agency) on the provision of future supplementary guidance on the factors to be taken into consideration in dealing with applications for the Secretary of State's consent.

Waste: Exports

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many individuals have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* prosecuted for the illegal export of waste in each of the last five years; [289683]

(2) what the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value was of fines imposed for the illegal export of waste in each of the last five years. [289684]

Dan Norris: Since 2004, the Environment Agency has had 18 successful prosecutions for illegal waste shipments. Four of these have been individuals and 14 have been companies. One company has been prosecuted twice in the space of two years. One individual was given a conditional discharge, the rest have received fines totalling £224,650.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which countries have been in receipt of illegally exported waste of each type from the UK in each year since 1997. [289685]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency has collected data on illegally exported waste from England and Wales since 2002. The countries that have been in receipt of illegally exported waste are as follows:

	Waste type	*Destination*
2002	Scrap vehicles, tyres, lead acid batteries	Thailand
2003	Scrap vehicles contaminated with oil	Belgium[1]
2005	Platinum catalysts	Netherlands
2006	Waste electrical equipment	Netherlands
2006	Scrap vehicles	Poland
2009	Plastic waste	Poland

[1] Waste intercepted in Belgium; intended final destination unknown.

Containers of waste exported to Brazil in 2009 are the subject of an ongoing investigation by the Environment Agency.

Water: Meters

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of homes with water meters installed in each water supply area. [289274]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The table shows the percentage and number of households with a meter for each water company.

	2008-09	
	Percentage of households metered	*Total number of household properties metered*
Water and sewerage companies		
Anglian (including Hartlepool Water)	63	1,161,568
Dwr Cymru	29	332,582
Northumbrian Water (including Essex and Suffolk Water)	30	534,858
United Utilities	26	724,208
Severn Trent Water	31	969,331
South West Water	64	43,817
Southern Water	38	363,601
Thames Water	26	862,738
Wessex Water	44	220,734
Yorkshire Water	35	685,128
Water only companies		
Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water	53	94,340

	2008-09	
	Percentage of households metered	*Total number of household properties metered*
Bristol Water	31	139,033
Cambridge Water	61	70,137
Dee Valley Water	46	50,080
Folkestone Water	64	43,605
Portsmouth Water	12	34,163
South East Water (including Mid Kent Water)	40	310,774
South Staffordshire Water	22	109,862
Sutton and East Surrey Water	30	75,639
Tendring Hundred Water	69	46,447
Three Valleys Water	36	429,854

Source:
Ofwat

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to answer question 269529, on the inter-departmental committee on flooding, tabled on 2 April 2009. [292030]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Question 269529 was transferred to the Cabinet Office in April as it has responsibility for the inter-departmental committee on flooding.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arc Manche

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding and support *(a)* the Government Office for the South East, *(b)* the South East England Regional Assembly and *(c)* the South East England Development Agency has provided to the Arc Manche network. [290419]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding that the Department has provided to the Arc Manche network is as follows:

(a) The Government office for the south east through the Interreg IIIB programme contributed £1.1 million ERDF to Arc Manche via the EMDI (Espace Manche Development Initiative) project;

(b) The South East England regional assembly did not contribute to the project; and

(c) The South East England Development Agency is aware of the Arc Manche Network but does not provide specific funding or support to it.

Buildings: Energy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to provide guidance on the use of energy-efficient circulator pumps in *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial properties. [291786]

Mr. Ian Austin: The recent consultation proposing changes to Part L of the Building Regulations included proposed standards and guidance for circulation pumps in both domestic and non-domestic buildings. The consultation responses are presently being analysed and they will help to inform the final amendment which is planned to be brought into operation in 2010.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on his Department's consideration of whether to restrict the scope of section 106 obligations after the Community Infrastructure Levy is introduced. [289708]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government have set out proposals to reform the use of planning obligations in Chapter 5 of its consultation regarding the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy which was launched on 30 July 2009 and will conclude on 23 October 2009.

Construction: Inspections

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to bring forward legislation for additional competent persons schemes in the current Session. [289552]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Building (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/2397), which were laid before Parliament on 8 September 2009, have authorised competent person schemes for the installation of a wholesome cold water supply and for the installation of a supply of non-wholesome water to a sanitary convenience fitted with a flushing device. These schemes were authorised to support the changes made to Part G of the Building Regulations (sanitation, hot water safety and water efficiency) by the Building and Approved Inspectors (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/1219).

There are no plans to authorise further competent person schemes in the current Session.

Council Housing

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long on average it took for a local authority to become an approved developer in the latest period for which figures are available. [289762]

John Healey: Under the local authority new build programme it has taken on average eight weeks for a local authority to become a pre-qualified partner. The pre-qualified partner status allows an organisation to bid for investment funding from the Homes and Communities Agency.

The first bid round for the programme opened for four weeks, closing on 31 July 2009. I launched a second bid round on 28 September 2009. From the opening of the bid round local authorities were invited to complete their pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) and the agency commits to giving the local authority a decision on assessment within eight weeks of receipt.

For the bid round 1 all PQQs received from local authorities have been assessed within that time frame.

Council Housing: Construction

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have built housing for rent in each of the last 10 years. [289761]

Mr. Ian Austin: Figures showing total local authority new build completions by local authority to 2007-08 were released in Live Table 253 on the CLG website in October 2008. These include total house building completions by tenure, including local authority completions:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140921.xls

Some of these completions could be provided for low cost home ownership rather than social rent, but a breakdown of these figures is not available centrally.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to chapter 2, paragraph 52, of Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654, when he expects construction to start on the council built and owned social rental homes; and what the proposed locations of the new homes are. [290366]

John Healey: 49 local authorities have now made successful applications to the Homes and Communities Agency for grant funding to build new council homes. Construction is expected on the first sites before the end of this year. A table giving the locations and numbers of the new homes has been placed in the Library of the House.

I launched a second bidding round on 28 September 2009. I am to announce successful schemes in December.

Council Housing: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have no housing debt. [289543]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities manage their debt as a whole and no separate record is kept of debts taken out for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) purposes. The calculations for local authorities' annual HRA subsidy entitlements use a notional measure of HRA debt known as the Subsidy Capital Financing Requirement (SCFR). The SCFR calculates the HRA's share of debt financing costs, or if it is assumed there is no debt, interest earned on investments.

The following list gives the stock-owning authorities with a negative SCFR.

Stock-owning authorities with a negative SCFR[1]

Barking and Dagenham
Cheltenham
Dacorum
Dartford
Epping Forest
Exeter
Gosport
Harlow
Redditch
South Bedfordshire
South Cambridgeshire
Stevenage
Welwyn Hatfield
Wycombe

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[1] As in the Housing Revenue Account subsidy determination 2009-10

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to revise the guidance provided by his Department to tenants on large-scale voluntary transfer ballots following the introduction of self-financing of housing revenue accounts. [291462]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has no plans to revise the guidance to tenants on large-scale voluntary transfer ballots following the introduction of self-financing of housing revenue accounts.

Council Housing: Tenants

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tenants there have been in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [291539]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information is available on the number of dwellings rather than tenants. Local authorities in England report information for numbers of local authority owned (council) dwellings as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns. This information is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

This information is not available for constituencies.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289508]

Barbara Follett: The Department publishes details of expenditure on public information campaigns in its annual reports, which includes information on press advertising activity.

The total amount for press advertising in 2008-09 is already in the public domain on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1298507.pdf

During this period the Department advertised in all major national newspapers and a broad, representative selection of regional and local newspapers.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290578]

Barbara Follett: IT Systems developed specifically for use in Communities and Local Government in the last five years are set out in the following table. None of such systems were terminated prior to implementation.

System	*Reason for development*	*Development cost (£000)*	*Implemented*	*Terminated following implementation*
Data Interchange Hub	The Data Interchange Hub was developed to provide a secure online repository for government organisations, local authorities and inspectorates to deposit and/or access national indicator data from a single location.	1,442	Yes	No
Data Interchange Hub—Government Office National Indicator Tool	The Places Analysis Tool (PAT) is an intuitive web-based tool for Local Area Agreement (LAA) partners to access and analyse data forming the National Indicators (NIs) alongside agreed local targets.	376	Yes	No
Floor Target Interactive (linked to Places Database)	Floor Targets Interactive is a website that allows users to find and analyse data which is used to measure the performance of different places with respect to key government targets called Floor Targets. This site is intended to service both users in government and academia, and the wider public audience.	297	Yes	No
Places Database and State of the Cities	To bring together data with a spatial element to ensure analysts and policy makers have the relevant evidence base to support policy decisions around the concept of Place.	1,117 [1](277)	Yes	No
National Register of Social Housing (NROSH)	To provide property level information on all social housing in England and Wales, and to help local, regional authorities and housing associations improve strategies and investment planning.	2,500	Yes	No
TESA	TESA (Transactional ERDF and State Aid) system was developed to manage the 2000-06 ERDF Programme.	1,000	Yes	No
MCIS	MCIS (Management Control Information System) was developed to manage the 2007-13 ERDF Programme.	1,600	Yes	No
Fire and Rescue Services (FRS)—Incident Recording System	A new system of recording details of incidents attended by FRS. The web-based Incident Recording System (IRS) is a great advance as it replaces paper form reporting, thus delivering substantial efficiencies in data capture. The system also results in richer, timelier and higher quality data, which will improve the evidence base for policy and on the ground service by the FRS.	3,639	Yes	No

[1] Costs for enhancement.

Departmental Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties owned by the Department were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the bill for each was in each such year. [290584]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government are liable for business rates on the following freehold property:

Fire Experimental Unit, Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire

		£
	Business rates	*Empty rates*
2004-05	17,100	0
2005-06	18,990	0
2006-07	19,485	0
2007-08	19,980	0
2008-09	20,790	0

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the average length of such leave has been. [290582]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government provides fathers or the mother's husband/civil partner/partner (including unmarried couples and same sex partners) with 10 days paid Maternity Support Leave for each child born. This leave is approved and recorded by individual line managers but no central record is maintained. As a consequence there would be a disproportionate cost in collecting and reporting this information.

Departmental Pay

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 25 of his Department's Resource Accounts 2008-09, HC 449, for what reasons the salary ranges relating to Director-General *(a)* Mike Falvey and *(b)* Joe Montgomery were increased by £20,000 in 2008-09. [290660]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* In the Department's Resource Accounts, the salaries paid to Board members are identified in bands of £5,000. Details are provided for the period covered by the Resource Accounts and for the previous financial year.

In the financial year 2008-09, the salary paid to Director-General Joe Montgomery increased as a result of payment of a non-consolidated sum, under the annual pay arrangements for senior civil servants, together with repositioning of his base salary to reflect an increase in responsibility. With these increases, the total paid in salary to Joe Montgomery in 2008-09 exceeded the previous threshold for the band in which his income had been reported in 2007-08.

The salary paid to Director-General Mike Falvey increased as a result of payment of a non-consolidated sum that formed part of the contractual arrangements agreed at the time of his appointment. With this increase, the total paid in salary to Mike Falvey in 2008-09 exceeded the previous threshold for the band in which his income had been reported in 2007-08.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289962]

Barbara Follett: In 2008-09, the Department for Communities and Local Government's recycling rate was 58 per cent.

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sick days were taken by staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such absences in each such year. [290579]

Barbara Follett: Information on sickness absences and costs for 2004, 2005, 2006-07 for the Department for Communities and Local Government is published by the Cabinet Office on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/sickness.aspx

Data for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are not yet available but will be published later in the year. For years prior to 2003 data are not held electronically and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

4

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each civil service payband. [290580]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government came into existence on 5 May 2006 replacing the former Office for the Deputy Prime Minister. The average (median) years in post, by grade level, for staff in Communities and Local Government as at end of March 2009 is set out in the following table:

	Average years (median)
AA	2.9
AO	2.0
EO	0.9
HEO	0.7
SEO	0.9
Grade 7	0.7
Grade 6	0.8
SCS	0.9
All grades	0.8

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued by his Department and its agencies on the siting of household waste collection facilities in new dwellings. [289540]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government provide a requirement and guidance for the provision of and access to storage for solid waste, such as waste bins, in part H6 of schedule 1 of the Building Regulations 2000, and in category 5—waste, of the code for sustainable homes (the code.)

The guidance in the Building Regulations sets out that the requirement in Part H6 will be met if the solid waste storage is:

> designed and sited so as not to be prejudicial to health;
>
> of sufficient area having regard to the requirements of the waste collection authority for the number and size of receptacles under sections 46 and 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990;
>
> sited so as to be accessible for use by people in the building and of ready access for removal to the collection point specified by the waste collection authority under sections 4 and 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The code is the voluntary national standard for the design and construction of sustainable new homes. To obtain a code certificate there are certain minimum standards that must be observed which include the storage of household waste. These standards are based on British Standard 5906 (100 litres for the first bedroom and then a further 70 litres for each additional bedroom) and will be met if:

> space is provided for storage of containers for separated waste, with a combined capacity of $0.25m^3$ or in agreement with the waste collection authority;
>
> all the containers are accessible to disabled people.

The code also provides credits for the provision of dedicated storage for recyclable household waste and for composting.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any advice or guidance has been given to local authorities on the use of wheeled refuse containers in conservation areas. [290463]

Mr. Ian Austin: Further to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Wansdyke (Dan Norris), to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, no advice or guidance has been given to local authorities on the use of wheeled refuse containers in conservation areas.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department or its agencies have *(a)* funded or *(b)* supported the production of guidance on the use of (i) alternate weekly collections and (ii) charges for the collection of household waste in eco-town developments. [290466]

John Healey: Neither the Department nor its agencies have funded or supported specific guidance on either alternate weekly collections or charges for the collection of household waste in eco-towns. In "Planning Policy Statement: Eco-towns" (PPS), which we published on 16 July 2009, we set out the standards that eco-towns will have to meet, including standards for waste. Copies of the PPS are available in the House Library.

Also as part of their work with us on eco-towns, the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) have produced a series of best practice guidance worksheets to support those taking forward eco-towns, including one on waste management, and these are available on the TCPA's website at:

http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/sustainability-worksheets.html

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many empty dwelling management orders have been made in each local authority area since the introduction of such orders; [291578]

(2) how many empty properties have been returned to use through an empty dwelling management order in each local authority area since the introduction of such orders. [291579]

Mr. Ian Austin: To date, 27 Interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) since the legislation came into effect in April 2006. However, local authorities claim that in many cases the threat of an EDMO has been sufficient to make owners take action to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

We do not hold information on the number of properties returned to use through an EDMO, however, we are confident that the legislation is beginning to work well. We always intended that the legislation should be used only as a last resort where other measures have proved unsuccessful. We want to encourage voluntary re-occupation of empty homes but this can only work well where there is realistic compulsion to back them up. EDMOs provide this compulsion and should therefore be a key component of a comprehensive empty property strategy.

Local authority	*Number of interim EDMOs authorised*
Bolton Borough Council	1
Carlisle District Council	2
London Borough of Bromley	1
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	1
London Borough of Hounslow	1
London Borough of Lewisham	5
New Forest District Council	1
Norwich City Council	6
Peterborough City Council	2
South Norfolk District Council	1
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	2
South Oxfordshire District Council	1
South Tyneside Borough Council	1
Swale Borough Council	1
Wychavon District Council	1
Total	27

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to extend requirements for energy performance certificates to existing housing stock which is not brought to market. [289806]

John Healey: We have no current plans to extend requirements for Energy Performance Certificates to existing housing stock which is not being brought to market.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the training facilities at the Fire Service College will be made available to train private sector contractors who would provide contingency fire cover in the event of industrial action by fire brigades. [291068]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The Fire Service College provides training and training facilities, on a commercial basis, for fire and rescue services, the wider public sector and the private sector.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contingency fire cover arrangements, other than the use of retained fire fighters, there are in the event of a *(a)* local and *(b)* national firefighters' strike. [291115]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The provision of emergency fire cover during local and national strikes is the statutory responsibility of fire and rescue authorities. Past experience has shown that fire and rescue authorities utilise a range of personnel to provide emergency fire cover, including officers and whole time duty system firefighters who are not in the union which is in dispute. In London, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority has entered into a contract with AssetCo plc, for the provision of an Emergency Fire Crew Capability Service to the London Fire Brigade.

Fire Services: Managers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the salary is of the *(a)* chair and *(b)* vice chair of each fire authority in England. [291981]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Medals

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W, on fire services: Greater London, for what reasons *(a)* staff in the London regional control centre will be eligible and *(b)* staff in other new fire control rooms will not be eligible for the Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. [291069]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Only staff employed by a Fire Brigade are eligible for the Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Staff employed in the London Regional Control Centre are eligible for the medal as they continue to be employed by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. Staff in the other Regional Control Centres, which are controlled by local authority owned companies, will not be in Fire Brigade employment and will therefore not be eligible for the medal under the terms of the Royal Warrant.

Government Office for London: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* salary and *(b)* non-salary administration budget of the Government Office for London is for 2009-10; how many members of staff the Office has in 2009-10; and what the Office's budget for each of its programmes is in 2009-10. [289820]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 2009-10 administrative budget for Government office for London (GOL) is:

	£
Salary	10,439,440
Non-pay	646,390
Total	11,085,830

The gross accommodation budget for GOL for 2009-10 is £4,592,154 and related tariff/minor occupier income of £753,900. The net accommodation budget is £3,838,254.

GOL staff in post as at the end of August 2009 = 204.

2009-10 programme budgets

Block	*Department*	*Programme*	*Amount (£)*
A	DCSF	Youth Opportunity Fund	7,222,800
	DCSF	Youth Capital Fund	4,394,100
	DCSF	Youth Capital Fund Plus	4,524,517
	DCSF	Teenage Pregnancy	120,000
	DCSF	Young London Matters	800,000
	DCSF	Children's Service Advisers Support	280,000
	DCSF	Children and Learners Strategic Advisers (CLSA)	70,000
	DCSF	Director for Children and Learners Networking Budget	60,000
	DCSF	Safeguarding Advisers	110,000
	DCSF	Quality Protects	150,000
	DCSF	Education Protects	17,000
	DCSF	LAG GO Pilot Projects	100,000
	DCSF	Sustainable Schools additional money	50,000
	DCSF	Childcare Regional Networking	275,000
	DCSF	National Healthy Schools	185,000
	DCSF	Parenting Implementation Project	50,000
	DCSF	2 year old Pilots Funding	68,500
	DCSF	Preventing Violent Extremism	100,000
	Home Office	Regional Partnership Performance Improvement Fund	100,000
	Home Office	Prevent Fund	76,000
	CLG	Prevent Programme Delivery	140,000
	CLG	Protect Programme Delivery	112,500
	Home Office	Private Space Violence Fund	350,000
	MOJ	SDVC/IDVA Fund	200,000
	Home Office	Youth Crime Delivery	97,560
	Sub-total		19,652,977
B	DCLG	GLA General Grant	48,068,000
	Sub-total		48,068,000
C	DCLG	NDC—New Deal For Communities	53,547,898
	DCLG	Local Area Agreements	520,474,971
	DCLG	Regional Housing Pot (LA Decent Homes)	144,817,000
	DCLG	Regional Housing Pot (Private Sector Renewal)	87,183,000
	DCLG	Disabled Facilities Grant	21,572,000
	DEFRA	Sustainable Development Transformation and Transition Fund	40,000
	DEFRA	Regional Climate Change Partnership Funding	45,000
	DEFRA	Sustainable Farming and Food Fund	20,000
	Sub-total		827,699,869
	Grand total		895,420,846

Blocks:
A—Programmes directly allocated/delegated to GOL
B—Grants to GLA
C—Programmes without delegation but GOL delivery/management responsibility

Government Offices for the Regions: Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each regional Government Office spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, (*d*) hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals in each of the last five years. [289821]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government office expenditure is set out as follows:

(a) Car hire

£

GO	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
North East	7,221	4,377	2,829	3,698	2,210
North West	26,825	33,580	21,534	23,038	26,522
Yorks and Humber	20,574	5,706	2,664	7,854	6,249
West Midlands	13,276	14,492	7,732	4,863	2,235
East Midlands	13,406	5,967	1,714	7,811	11,060
East	5,478	5,882	[illegible],991	16,767	659
South East	12,268	7,043	16,717	2,223	9,672
South West	81,962	102,388	101,918	75,054	72,367
London	27	0	0	0	0

(b) Train travel

£

GO	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
North East	292,441	270,952	223,520	241,158	214,201
North West	384,048	348,295	282,440	303,769	319,727
Yorks and Humber	253,857	233,881	230,243	240,192	247,966
West Midlands	179,486	162,472	155,376	125,027	132,170
East Midlands	153,210	69,431	59,099	95,892	102,643
East	191,450	176,056	142,024	137,719	135,531
South East	113,783	96,444	82,061	73,521	70,012
South West	336,479	291,734	260,246	252,066	228,055
London	113,495	70,271	50,248	46,634	43,086

(c) Air travel

GO	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
North East	1,554	817	0	0	0
North West	122	2,834	21,534	533	1,313
Yorks and Humber	4,364	3,011	2,664	7,854	6,249
West Midlands	24,667	27,792	7,732	4,863	2,235
East Midlands	0	0	0	0	0
East	326	0	0	0	0
South East	20,750	9,418	6,905	8,063	3,400
South West	0	0	0	0	0
London	20,426	1,910	2,798	0	0

(d)/(e) Hotels/restaurant meals

GO	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	£ 2008-09
North East	122,459	104,005	95,794	103,353	91,801
North West	233,365	230,701	203,167	179,348	156,682
Yorks and Humber	115,873	133,426	127,419	98,665	146,841
West Midlands	98,397	92,209	83,664	67,322	71,168
East Midlands	152,866	237,094	174,306	143,146	147,627
East	82,050	75,453	60,867	59,022	58,085
South East	129,864	114,871	98,219	74,636	93,192
South West	273,039	317,445	291,145	266,655	249,904
London	46,631	26,931	21,535	19,986	18,465

The information is taken from the central accounting system and this does not provide a detailed break down of transport and subsistence claims made by GO staff, thus the costs of hotels and restaurant meals are not individually identified.

Government Offices for the Regions: Official Hospitality

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what hospitality has been received by senior officers in each of the Government Offices for the Regions in the last 12 months. [291475]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I am placing in the Library a table of the gifts and hospitality for senior officers in the Government offices for the last 12 months.

In accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code and the Civil Service Management Code, civil servants declare any hospitality received.

Government Offices for the Regions: Pay

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what salary grades staff in each Government Office are employed upon. [291795]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The current pay ranges for staff employed in the Government Offices with effect from 1 August 2009 are as follows:

Grade	Minimum	£ Maximum
AA London	19,863	20,700
Typist London	19,863	20,700
AA National	14,482	15,164
SGB2 National	14,482	15,164
Typist National	14,482	15,164
AA Outer London	16,765	18,610
Typist Outer London	16,765	18,610
SGB2 Outer London	16,765	18,610
AO London	21,267	23,814
PS London	21,267	23,814
AO National	16,457	18,414
PS National	16,457	18,414
SGB1 National	16,457	18,414
AO Outer London	19,133	22,095
PS Outer London	19,133	22,095
SGB1 Outer London	19,133	22,095
EO London	24,730	29,277
SPS London	24,730	29,277
EO National	19,927	23,582
SPS National	19,927	23,582
EO Outer London	22,628	26,958
SPS Outer London	22,628	26,958
MCO National	24,377	28,852
RO National	24,377	28,852
MCO Outer London	26,402	31,456
RO Outer London	26,402	31,456
EO Accountant London	28,91[illegible]	33,129
EO Accountant National	23,386	27,675
EO Accountant Outer London	26,930	32,084
HEO London	30,858	34,274
HEO National	26,676	29,599
HEO Outer London	29,289	33,220
HEO Accountant London	36,363	40,071
HEO Auditor London	36,363	40,071
HEO Accountant National	30,822	34,062
HEO Auditor National	30,822	34,062
HEO Accountant Outer London	33,542	38,908
HEO Auditor Outer London	33,542	38,908
HSO London	34,116	37,927
HPTO London	34,116	37,927
HSO National	31,737	35,255
HPTO National	31,737	35,255
SIO National	31,737	35,255
HSO Outer London	32,488	36,776
HPTO Outer London	32,488	36,776
SIO Outer London	32,488	36,776
InfO London	31,977	37,757
InfO National	28,106	34,602
SEO London	37,612	41,762
SEO National	32,599	36,177
SEO Outer London	33,316	40,071
SEO Accountant London	41,799	46,639
SEO Accountant National	36,789	41,087
SEO Auditor National	36,789	41,087
SEO Accountant Outer London	39,521	45,286
SEO Auditor Outer London	39,521	45,286

Grade	Minimum	£ Maximum
SInfO London	39,619	43,219
SInfO National	37,371	40,767
SPTO London	44,450	49,391
SPO London	44,450	49,391
SRO London	44,450	49,391
SSO London	44,450	49,391
SPTO National	40,640	45,139
SPO National	40,640	45,139
SRO National	40,640	45,139
SSO National	40,640	45,139
SPTO Outer London	42,001	47,550
SPO Outer London	42,001	47,550
SRO Outer London	42,001	47,550
SSO Outer London	42,001	47,550
G7 London	49,363	61,151
G7 Accountant London	49,363	61,151
G7 National	44,509	54,946
G7 Accountant National	44,509	54,946
G7 Outer London	47,556	59,827
G7 Accountant Outer London	47,556	59,827
G6 London	58,899	73,498
G6 National	54,490	67,506
G6 Outer London	57,671	72,548
SCS Pay Band 1	58,200	117,800
SCS Pay Band 1A	67,600	128,900
SCS Pay Band 2	82,900	162,500

The London rates are paid to staff working in the Government Office for London; the outer London rates to staff working in the Government Office for the South East; and national rates to staff working in the other seven Government offices. There is no difference in the pay rates for SCS pay bands 1, 1A and 2 in different parts of the country. Staff can be paid a salary anywhere between the minimum and maximum.

Government Offices Network Centre and Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the Government Offices network centre and services is for 2009-10. [289465]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The budget for the pay and non-pay costs of the Government Office network centre and services for 2009-10 is £5,732,470.

The Government Office NCS also manages central budgets for the Government Office network, including ICT and property, totalling £32,670,930 for 2009-10.

Homelessness

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been accepted as homeless in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* south Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [291540]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq22009

Data collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). The regional and national figures for the number of applicants accepted as owed a main duty, for each financial year since 1998-99 can be found in table 3 of this statistical release, and an extract which includes the 1997-98 figures for England and the north-east is provided in the following table.

Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, England and the North East, 1997-98 to 2008-09

	England	North East
1997-98	102,430	4,390
1998-99	104,260	4,460
1999-2000	105,580	4,840
2000-01	114,670	5,160
2001-02	116,660	5,610
2002-03	128,540	6,920
2003-04	135,430	8,350
2004-05	120,860	7,940
2005-06	93,980	5,970
2006-07	73,360	4,790
2007-08	63,170	3,600
2008-09 (provisional)	53,430	3,140

For local authority level acceptance figures between 1997-98 and 2008-09, including those for South Tyneside, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink) on 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 843W.

We do not centrally hold figures below local authority level.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which month the second round of housing and planning delivery grant will be paid to local authorities; and what period of time will be used as the basis for assessing whether grant targets have been met. [290475]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1838W.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to announce the outcomes of his review of the housing revenue account. [291670]

Mr. Ian Austin: On 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 7-10WS, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing announced his intention to replace the housing revenue account subsidy system with a devolved system of responsibility and funding for council housing. He published a consultation paper setting out his proposals on 21 July. The consultation closes on Tuesday 27 October.

Housing: Construction

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the regulatory and environmental benefits of establishing a competent person scheme for roofing work. [289997]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has been discussing with interested parties the possibility of establishing a competent person scheme for roof work. Before any scheme could be authorised, the regulatory and environmental benefits in doing so would need to be fully assessed. Any applicant for a scheme for roof work would need to demonstrate competence to meet all the environmental requirements in the building regulations.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* North-West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Peterborough, *(d)* Huntingdonshire and *(e)* England in each of the last five years; [291478]

(2) how many homes for social rent have been built in *(a)* North-West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* Huntingdonshire, *(d)* Peterborough and *(e)* England in each of the last five years. [291479]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on new homes built for social rent and affordable housing is not available by constituency.

The following table shows the number of new affordable homes (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) built in Cambridge local authority, Huntingdon local authority, Peterborough unitary authority, Cambridgeshire county and England in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cambridge	160	30	120	160	250
Huntingdon	80	90	70	100	70
Peterborough	0	150	80	120	280
Cambridgeshire	540	440	680	840	890
England	23,890	26,930	33,260	36,260	43,560

Note:
Figures are estimates, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.

The following table shows the number of new social rented homes (excluding intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) built in Cambridge local authority, Huntingdon local authority, Peterborough unitary authority, Cambridgeshire county and England in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cambridge	160	30	100	120	120
Huntingdon	80	80	50	80	60
Peterborough	0	140	40	60	200
Cambridgeshire	450	360	400	590	550
England	18,370	18,790	20,510	21,500	25,390

Note:
Figures are estimates, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Not all social rented and affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 270 additional affordable homes were provided in Cambridge (new build and acquisitions), 90 in Huntingdon, 310 in Peterborough, 990 in Cambridgeshire, and 53,730 additional affordable homes were provided in England (new build and acquisitions).

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North-East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [291541]

(2) how many homes for social rent have been built in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North-East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [291542]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on new homes built for social rent and affordable housing is not available by constituency.

The following table shows the number of new affordable homes (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) built in South Tyneside local authority, the North-East Region, and England in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
South Tyneside	80	40	80	80	80
North East	560	690	930	1,230	830
England	23,890	26,930	33,260	36,260	43,560

Note:
Figures are estimates, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.

The following table shows the number of new social rented homes (excluding intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) built in South Tyneside local authority, the North-East Region, and England in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
South Tyneside	80	30	50	80	70
North East	540	580	760	1,090	690
England	18,370	18,790	20,510	21,500	25,390

Note:
Figures are estimates, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Not all social rented and affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 80 additional affordable homes were provided in South Tyneside (new build and acquisitions), 960 in the North-East Region, and 53,730 additional affordable homes were provided in England (new build and acquisitions).

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in each of the six Gloucestershire districts in each year since 2003. [291560]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of new affordable homes (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) built in each local authority in Gloucestershire in each of the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Gloucester	30	60	120	120	170
Tewkesbury	20	50	100	80	140
Cheltenham	160	90	30	70	110
Cotswold	60	100	20	50	10
Stroud	20	20	30	0	100
Forest of Dean	20	20	40	40	90

Note:
Figures are estimates, and have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2007-08, a total of 210 additional affordable homes were provided in Gloucester (new build and acquisitions), 150 in Tewkesbury, 120 in Cheltenham, 10 in Cotswold, 100 in Stroud, and 100 additional affordable homes were provided in Forest of Dean (new build and acquisitions).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to encourage self-build housebuilders. [292296]

John Healey: The Government recognise the need to promote a diverse range of housing suppliers to achieve its housing ambitions. This includes, where appropriate, self builders who make an important contribution towards the meeting the demand for new homes.

The Government are doing further work identify additional opportunities to promote a strong and diverse house-building sector. We will report on progress with this work alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report in the autumn.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many self-built homes were completed in each region in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [292298]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally.

Housing: Low Incomes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which Homebuy schemes Northern Rock participates. [289536]

John Healey: Participation in homebuy schemes is a commercial decision for lenders. Currently, 18 lenders are willing to offer mortgages under shared ownership schemes, such as new build homebuy, and five lenders support HomeBuy Direct. Northern Rock is not one of these participants.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the number of affordable housing units provided in *(a)* whole and *(b)* part through Section 106 agreements in the last three years. [289544]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 974-75W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the monetary value of developers' contributions under Section 106 agreements in each year since 1997; and what changes have been made to the criteria used to determine the level of such contributions since 1997. [289728]

Mr. Ian Austin: Detailed information on the value and nature of section 106 contributions are not held centrally. The Government have conducted a survey of the use and value of planning obligations among English local authorities for the years 2003-04 and 2005-06. These research reports are published on the Communities and Local Government website.

This research estimates that the total value of planning obligations agreed in England has increased from £1.9 billion in 2003-04 to £4 billion in 2005-06. Figures for 2005-06 show that of the total value of planning obligations made in that year, the majority of contributions were made towards affordable housing (50 per cent.), followed by the provision of land (24 per cent.), transport and travel (9 per cent.), open space and the environment (5 per cent.), education (4 per cent.), community works and leisure (2 per cent.), and other contributions (6 per cent.).

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether MyChoice HomeBuy is included in the proposed closure of Open Market HomeBuy; [290465]

(2) for what reasons he is closing the Open Market Homebuy scheme; and what his plans are for the future of the HomeBuy Direct scheme. [289547]

John Healey: As I outlined in my written statement to the House on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 7-10WS, we are closing the Open Market HomeBuy scheme, including MyChoice HomeBuy, in order to maximise our efforts behind the building of new affordable homes. As well as helping first time buyers this increases the supply of houses and creates jobs.

HomeBuy Direct is a partnership between Government and housebuilders that is giving thousands of first-time buyers the chance to step onto the property ladder, while at the same time stimulating construction activity and retaining capacity in the housebuilding industry to respond when the market recovers.

Housebuilders are able to bid for funding for more HomeBuy Direct schemes through the Kickstart programme.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties have been sold under the HomeBuy Direct scheme in each local authority area in England since the scheme's introduction. [291484]

John Healey: Provisional estimates for completed sales under the HomeBuy Direct scheme by local authority area, to the end of August 2009, are set out in the following table:

Local authority	*Number*
Arun	1
Ashfield	1
Ashford	3
Babergh	1
Barnsley	8
Basingstoke and Deane	14
Bassetlaw	1
Bath and North East Somerset	4
Bedford Borough Council	2
Birmingham	9
Blackburn	3
Blackpool	2
Braintree	3
Brentwood	2
Bristol	9
Calderdale	3
Cannock Chase	1
Carlisle	2
Charnwood	4
Cheltenham	2
Cherwell	1
Cheshire East Council	3
Chesterfield	3
Chorley	4
Corby	3
Cornwall Council	3
Coventry	3
Croydon	2
Dacorum	3
Darlington	3
Derby	4
Doncaster	1
Dudley	9
Durham County Council	3
Eastbourne	9
East Cambridgeshire	1
East Hertfordshire	13
Eastleigh	2
East Lindsey	1
East Riding	2
East Staffordshire	1
Epping Forest	1
Exeter	1
Forest Heath	1
Fylde	3
Gloucester	11
Gravesham	1
Halton	2
Harlow	1
Harrow	3
Hart	1
Hartlepool	1
Hastings	1
Havant	7
Hinckley and Bosworth	2
Hounslow	2
Ipswich	4
Isle of Wight	4
Kingston upon Hull	8
Kirklees	10
Knowsley	1
Lambeth	23
Lancaster	2
Leeds	30
Leicester	5
Lichfield	1
Liverpool	6
Maidstone	1
Malvern Hills	2
Manchester	8
Mendip	7
Merton	1
Mid Devon	3
Middlesbrough	2
Mid Suffolk	3
Milton Keynes	2
Newark and Sherwood	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	2
Northampton	1
North Dorset	1
North East Lincolnshire	2
North Kesteven	1
North Somerset	10
North Tyneside	1
Norwich	7
Oldham	1
Peterborough	2
Plymouth	4
Portsmouth	11
Preston	1
Redbridge	3
Redcar and Cleveland	1
Rotherham	2
Rugby	5
Rushcliffe	3
Rushmoor	2
Ryedale	2
Salford	3
Sandwell	5
Sedgemoor	10
Sefton	3
Shropshire Council	2
Solihull	10
Southampton	7
South Gloucestershire	25
South Kesteven	4
South Norfolk	4
South Somerset	1
South Tyneside	1
Stevenage	1
Stockton-on-Tees	4
Stoke-on-Trent	1
Stroud	5
Suffolk coastal	1
Sunderland	7
Swale	5
Swindon	17
Tameside	2
Taunton Deane	2
Telford and Wrekin	4

Local authority	*Number*
Tewkesbury	14
The Medway Towns	3
Torridge	6
Trafford	1
Wakefield	10
Walsall	5
Watford	2
Wealden	3
West Berkshire	1
West Devon	1
West Dorset	1
Wiltshire Council	11
Wyre	1
Wyre Forest	1
York	9

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by the Homes and Communities Agency on the Affordable Housing Programme in each county in 2008-09. [291716]

John Healey: I have placed information on the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme expenditure in 2008-09 in each local authority area in the Library of the House.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been bought through the National Clearing House scheme in each local authority area in the North-West region since the scheme's inception. [289295]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of new homes purchased from house builders by housing associations in each local authority area in the north west region through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme in 2008-09.

Purchase of unsold developer stock in North West region	*Total units*
Allerdale	4
Blackburn	5
Bolton	63
Carlisle	28
Chester	83
Chorley	16
Crewe and Nantwich	47
Ellesmere Port and Neston	6
Fylde	7
Halton	19
Knowsley	15
Lancaster	16
Liverpool	86
Manchester	23
Oldham	52
Rochdale	10
Salford	22
Sefton	32
South Ribble	11
Tameside	61
Warrington	44
Wigan	15
Wyre	5

Housing: Standards

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of houses with a standard assessment procedure rating of *(a)* below 10, *(b)* between 10 and 19, *(c)* between 20 and 29, *(d)* between 30 and 34, *(e)* between 35 and 39, *(f)* between 40 and 44, *(g)* between 45 and 49, *(h)* between 50 and 54, *(i)* between 55 and 59, *(j)* between 60 and 64, *(k)* between 65 and 69, *(l)* between 70 and 79, *(m)* between 80 and 89 and *(n)* between 90 and 99 (i) in each lower layer super output area, (ii) in each parliamentary constituency and (iii) occupied by a household with an income (A) above and (B) below 60 per cent. of median income measured (1) before and (2) after housing costs. [289445]

John Healey: The information is not collected in a way that allows it to be broken down in the manner requested. Information about the number of dwellings in England and Wales for which Energy Performance Certificates generated using the Standard Assessment Procedure is available from the Domestic Energy Performance Certificate Register at

https://www.epcregister.com/lodgementStats.html

Housing: Valuation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in *(a)* the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and *(b)* Bracknell Forest District are recorded with each individual (i) dwellinghouse code and (ii) value significant code, including each individual (A) type, (B) room number, (C) bedroom, (D) bathroom, (E) floors, (F) floor level, (G) parking, (H) garaging, (I) conservatory type, (J) age, (K) outbuilding and (L) modernisation codes according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292055]

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in the Sevenoaks district are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code including each individual (i) type, (ii) room number, (iii) bedroom, (iv) bathroom, (v) floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code according to Valuation Office Agency electronic records. [292087]

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 1924-7W, to the hon. Member for Ludlow of 14 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 2131-2W, and to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 2212-4W, on housing: valuation, how many properties are recorded within each category of *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code, including of each individual (i) type, (ii) room number, (iii) bathrooms, (iv) floors, (v) floor level, (vi) parking, (vii) garaging, (viii) conservatory type, (ix) age, (x) outbuilding and (xi) modernisation code in the local authority area of Hammersmith and Fulham constituency according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292293]

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in the Gravesham local authority area are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code including each individual (i) type, (ii) room number, (iii) bedroom, (iv) bathroom, (v) floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292086]

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report,* column 2215W, on housing: valuation, how many properties in Welwyn Hatfield local authority area are recorded with each *(a)* individual type, *(b)* room number, *(c)* bedroom, *(d)* bathroom, *(e)* floor, *(f)* floor level, *(g)* parking, *(h)* garaging, *(i)* conservatory type, *(j)* age, *(k)* outbuilding and *(l)* modernisation code. [292534]

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 1924-7W, to the hon. Member for Ludlow of 14 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 2131-3W, and to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 2212-4W, on housing: valuation, how many properties are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code, including of each individual (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code, in the local authority area of the London Borough of Havering according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292338]

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 1924-7W, to the hon. Member for Ludlow of 14 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 2131-2W, and to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 September 2009, *Official Report,* columns 2212-4W, on housing: valuation, how many properties are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code, including each individual (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code in the local authority area of Spelthorne, according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292391]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwellinghouse code and each value significant code, for the local authority areas requested, has been deposited in the Library.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Infrastructure Planning Commission will begin to undertake its statutory duties. [289540]

John Healey: The Infrastructure Planning Commission began to undertake its statutory duties from 1 October 2009. From this date, it started providing advice and guidance on preparing applications, and on how the new regime will work.

From 1 March 2010, the IPC will begin accepting applications for development consent from the Energy and Transport sectors, for the Waste Water and Hazardous Waste sectors in April 2011, and the Water Supply sector in April 2012.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications have been submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [289542]

John Healey: None. As set out in my statement in July 2009, our intention is for the IPC to begin accepting applications for development consent from the energy and transport sectors from 1 March 2010, for the waste water and hazardous waste sectors in April 2011, and the water supply sector in April 2012.

From 1 October 2009, the IPC began providing advice and guidance on preparing applications, and on how the new regime will work.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what notice period has been specified in the contracts for the commissioners of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [289750]

John Healey: The contracts for the commissioners of the Infrastructure Planning Commission specify that the appointment can be terminated by either party, by giving three months' notice in writing. It also stipulates that the Secretary of State may remove a person from office as the chair, or as deputy or other Commissioner, if the Secretary of State is satisfied that:

(a) the person is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of the office;

(b) the person has been convicted of a criminal offence; or

(c) the person is otherwise unfit to perform the duties of the office.

Land Use

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to *(a)* local planning authorities and *(b)* regional planning bodies on undertaking employment land reviews. [289537]

Mr. Ian Austin: We published 'Employment Land Reviews: Guidance Note' in December 2004. This guidance note seeks to help local planning authorities and regional planning bodies in assessing the demand for, and supply of employment land.

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy is of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission on encouraging local authorities to increase revenue from fees and charges. [290468]

Barbara Follett: Decisions on those fees and charges where local authorities are responsible for determining the level, are a matter for individual councils.

The Audit Commission's views on local authorities' policy on fees and charges is set out in its report 'Positively Charged', published in January 2008, which can be found at

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/localgov/Pages/positivelycharged.aspx

Local Government: Executives

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have made their chief executive redundant as a result of local government reorganisation in the last five years; what severance pay was awarded in each case; and which of them have subsequently taken up employment in another local authority. [291727]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The establishment of nine new unitary councils on 1 April 2009 involves 44 chief executives leaving office through resignation, redundancy or retirement as decided locally and on which information is not held centrally.

These changes are part of the wider restructuring process which has led to a reduction of 330 senior management posts saving £23 million per annum. Under the Government's criteria for restructuring, any costs of transition, including redundancy costs, are met by savings or reserves and are not a call on the council tax.

Local Government: Kirklees

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people local authorities serving Kirklees employed in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [291799]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold records of the number of people employed by individual local authorities. The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector including local authorities in England and Wales as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey. Data from this survey have been published with written permission from all local authorities by the Local Government Association on their website and are available at:

http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1955843

Local Government: Official Hospitality

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the receipt of hospitality by local authority staff involved in planning matters; and what records his Department holds on the receipt of such hospitality. [291728]

Mr. Ian Austin: While the Department issues guidance for councillors' conduct it has not issued any guidance for local authority employees. Local authority employees' behaviour regarding the receipt of hospitality would be determined by their terms and conditions of employment. In addition, the employing authority may have a code of conduct for employees addressing this issue. Consequently, the Department holds no records on the receipt of such hospitality. The Local Government Association has issued guidance in "Probity in Planning: The Role of Councillors and Officers—Revised Guidance Note on Good Planning Practice for Councillors and Officers Dealing With Planning Matters". This can be viewed at:

http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/1940404

Local Government: Pay

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what staff in which local authorities received a remuneration package in excess of £100,000 in 2008-09; and what their job title was in each case. [291729]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of local authority employees who received more than £64,000 in salary in the latest year for which figures are available. [292001]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to amend Local Government Pension Scheme regulations to remove the requirement to fully fund all promised pension benefits. [290423]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The pension entitlements of members of the Local Government Pension Scheme are guaranteed under the scheme's provisions. There are no plans to change that position nor the current solvency requirement in the regulations.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the implications of the High Court judicial review judgement of Mr. Justice Foskett on the Boundary Committee and local government restructuring in Suffolk, with particular reference to the timetable for unitary restructuring in Suffolk, Norfolk and Devon. [289269]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This matter is currently before the Court of Appeal whose judgment we await. Any new date by which the Boundary Committee is to provide advice will be specified once it is clear when the appeal will be determined.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in Perth and North Perthshire constituency have applied for assistance under the Homeowners Mortgage Protection Scheme; and how many such applications have been *(a)* successful and *(b)* rejected. [289519]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2217W.

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have received assistance under the Homeowners Mortgage Protection Scheme in *(a)* Glasgow Central, *(b)* Glasgow North, *(c)* Glasgow North East, *(d)* Glasgow South, *(e)* Glasgow South West and *(f)* Glasgow East to date. [289694]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 317W, to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins).

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire have taken up the Homeowners Mortgage Protection Scheme. [290306]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2217W.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency have taken up the Homeowner Mortgage Protection Scheme. [291442]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2217W, to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne).

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many completions he expects to be made in respect of applications from households in *(a)* Luton and *(b)* England for assistance in respect of the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in the next (i) three and (ii) six months; [291671]

(2) how many applications for assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme from households in *(a)* Luton and *(b)* England were under consideration on the latest date for which figures are available; [291672]

(3) how many enquiries his Department has received on assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme from households in *(a)* Luton and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [291673]

John Healey: We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

The Mortgage Rescue Scheme offers targeted support for the most vulnerable households who would receive statutory homelessness assistance if repossessed. The scheme aims to support up to 6,000 vulnerable households over two years, depending on the extent of demand.

As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data up to the end of June 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

I have placed a copy of the figures reported by local authorities to June 2009 in the Library of the House.

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme since its inception. [291813]

John Healey: We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

The Mortgage Rescue Scheme offers targeted support for the most vulnerable households who would receive statutory homelessness assistance if repossessed. The scheme aims to support up to 6,000 vulnerable households over two years, depending on the extent of demand.

As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January-June 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government office region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Figures reported by local authorities from January to June 2009 are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on local authorities to *(a)* publish and *(b)* release on request details of homes which are licensed under (i) mandatory and (ii) discretionary houses of multiple occupation licensing schemes. [289464]

Mr. Ian Austin: Section 232 of the Housing Act 2004 requires every local authority to establish and maintain a register of licences issued under mandatory HMO licensing and discretionary additional HMO licensing schemes. These registers are required to be made available for inspection by the public at all reasonable times.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses have claimed *(a)* small business rate relief, *(b)* mandatory relief, *(c)* discretionary relief, *(d)* rural settlement relief and *(e)* hardship relief in (i) Hemel

Hemel Hempstead constituency, (ii) Dacorum, (iii) Hertfordshire and (iv) England in each of the last five years. [289424]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the number of businesses claiming business rate reliefs as at 31 December 2007 and 31 December 2008 in the Dacorum council area, Hertfordshire and England are shown in the following tables.

Number of hereditaments in receipt of business rate relief as at 31 December 2007

	Dacorum	Hertfordshire	England
Mandatory relief	480	5,321	275,159
Of which:			
Rural rate relief	2	63	6,603
Discretionary relief	145	1,225	48,767
Of which:			
Rural rate relief	1	55	3,515

Number of hereditaments in receipt of business rate relief as at 31 December 2008

	Dacorum	Hertfordshire	England
Mandatory relief	706	3,419	236,636
Of which:			
Rural rate relief	1	61	6,308
Discretionary relief	145	1,037	49,909
Of which:			
Rural rate relief	0	52	3,565

Data for 2007 and 2008 are not strictly comparable as the rules governing empty property rate relief were changed by the Ratings (Empty Properties) Act 2007 and further subsequent changes.

Data for hardship relief and small business rate relief in these years are not available.

Data are not available at a constituency level and data for earlier years were not collected.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* small and *(b)* large properties in each region will be subject to (i) an increase and (ii) a decrease in business rates of (A) zero, (B) one to five, (C) six to 10, (D) 11 to 15, (E) 16 to 20, (F) 21 to 30, (G) 31 to 40, (H) 41 to 50, (I) 51 to 100, (J) 101 to 200 and (K) over 200 per cent. before the application of transitional relief in 2010-11. [289906][1]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following tables show the number of small and large properties by their percentage change in business rates before the application of transitional relief in 2010-11, grouped by Government office region.

A small property is defined as having a rateable value less than £18,000, or £25,500 in London. This is the definition proposed in the 2010 Transitional Relief consultation document published on 8 July 2009.

The analysis uses data from the Local List only; properties on the Central List are excluded.

Small properties

	North East	North West	North Yorkshire and the Humber West	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
Less than -50%	200	600	500	1,200	400	600	800	700	400
Between -50% (including) and -40% (excluding)	300	900	600	1,800	600	900	1,500	900	600
Between -40% (incl.) and -30% (excl.)	500	1,900	1,400	5,900	1,700	2,500	2,900	2,800	1,700
Between -30% (incl.) and -20% (excl.)	2,200	6,000	4,100	16,100	8,100	6,600	6,700	11,500	4,900
Between -20% (incl.) and -15% (excl.)	10,000	36,400	31,700	43,000	32,900	22,500	28,500	46,600	13,500
Between -15% (incl.) and -10% (excl.)	8,300	18,700	12,100	8,900	18,600	13,400	11,900	18,900	10,600
Between -10% (incl.) and -5% (excl.)	10,900	23,800	18,700	8,000	19,900	14,900	20,500	23,400	15,600
Between -5% (incl.) and -0% (excl.)	7,700	20,400	15,200	5,600	13,200	13,500	19,700	14,400	15,900
No change (0%)[2]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	100	[2]—	100	[2]—
Between 0% (excl.) and 5% (incl.)	7,400	18,900	14,200	4,700	12,900	12,000	24,300	12,300	18,400
Between 5% (excl.) and 10% (incl.)	2,500	10,400	9,600	2,400	5,900	7,900	16,300	8,200	12,100
Between 10% (excl.) and 15% (incl.)	2,100	9,300	7,200	1,800	6,600	6,900	10,500	7,600	10,300
Between 15% (excl.) and 20% (incl.)	1,400	7,200	4,700	1,200	4,200	7,300	10,600	3,300	7,800
Between 20% (excl.) and 30% (incl.)	2,000	11,200	5,900	1,400	6,100	8,700	13,500	7,900	11,000

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[1] [Official Report, 22 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 5-6MC.]

Small properties

	North East	North West	North Yorkshire and the Humber West	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
Between 30% (excl.) and 40% (incl.)	1,000	6,600	2,800	800	2,300	6,000	8,700	4,300	7,500
Between 40% (excl.) and 50% (incl.)	400	3,300	1,900	700	1,500	2,200	5,600	2,200	4,200
Between 50% (excl.) and 100% (incl.)[1]	1,100	5,200	2,600	1,200	2,800	3,600	10,800	4,900	8,200
Between 100% (excl.) and 200% (incl.)	300	1,000	800	300	600	1,000	1,700	1,000	1,300
More than 200% (excl.)	100	200	200	100	200	300	100	200	400

[1] 344 properties see no change in their business rates bill. All these properties have zero Rateable Value before and after the revaluation.

[2] Negligible (less than 50).

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest hundred.

Large properties

	North East	North West	North Yorkshire and the Humber West	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West
Less than -50%	[1]—	100	[1]—	[1]—	100	100	100	100	[1]—
Between -50% (including) and -40% (excluding)	100	200	100	200	200	200	200	300	100
Between -40% (incl.) and -30% (excl.)	100	600	300	1,100	500	800	700	1,100	400
Between -30% (incl.) and -20% (excl.)	600	2,200	1,200	4,600	3,100	3,200	2,400	7,100	1,400
Between -20% (incl.) and -15% (excl.)	2,000	9,500	7,500	9,700	9,400	6,300	5,900	15,500	3,200
Between -15% (incl.) and -10% (excl.)	2,500	7,700	5,300	3,500	8,300	6,600	5,800	10,000	3,700
Between -10% (incl.) and -5% (excl.)	2,500	8,500	5,500	2,600	6,400	4,900	8,100	9,600	4,600
Between -5% (incl.) and 0% (excl.)	2,100	6,900	4,500	2,300	4,900	6,000	9,200	7,400	5,100
No change (0%)[2]	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,300	0	0
Between 0% (excl.) and 5% (incl.)	1,700	5,700	4,000	1,900	3,300	4,800	7,000	5,000	5,300
Between 5% (excl.) and 10% (incl.)	1,100	3,800	3,000	1,300	2,200	3,700	5,300	4,600	4,300
Between 10% (excl.) and 15% (incl.)	900	2,600	2,200	900	1,400	2,800	4,300	3,400	3,600
Between 15% (excl.) and 20% (incl.)	600	2,000	1,700	600	1,000	2,000	6,900	2,000	2,700
Between 20% (excl.) and 30% (incl.)	900	2,700	2,100	700	1,300	2,900	5,200	3,200	3,500
Between 30% (excl.) and 40% (incl.)	400	1,500	1,000	400	600	1,500	4,000	1,900	1,800
Between 40% (excl.) and 50% (incl.)	200	800	600	300	400	800	10,100	1,100	1,200
Between 50% (excl.) and 100% (incl.)	400	1,400	900	600	600	1,400	1,100	2,100	1,900
Between 100% (excl.) and 200% (incl.)	200	500	300	300	300	400	200	600	500
More than 200% (excl.)	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	200	200

[1] Negligible (less than 50).

[2] 344 properties see no change in their business rates bill. All these properties have zero Rateable Value before and after the revaluation.

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest hundred.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the data on rateable values used as the basis of the statement on page 10 of his Department's consultation paper on transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England that the 2010 revaluation will result in more ratepayers seeing reductions in bills (60 per cent. of ratepayers) than increases (40 per cent. of ratepayers). [289907]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Before inflation, the 2010 business rates revaluation will reduce the rates bill for 1,028,500 properties and increase the rates bill for 677,800 properties.

After rounding, this represents 60 per cent. and 40 per cent. of properties, respectively. These figures are based on the same ratings list as used for the consultation document Transitional Arrangements for the Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England" published on 8 July 2009. The ratings list is a live database and is continually being updated (to reflect appeals, deletions, additions, physical alterations, splits and mergers).

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the total amount of business rates to be paid in respect of *(a)* properties and *(b)* large properties in each region in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11, (iii) 2011-12, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [289908]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the amount of National Non-Domestic Rates local authorities expect to collect in 2009-10 were published on 28 May in a Statistical Release that is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nondomesticrates200910f

Data are collected at local authority level but not by the size of the property. Data for other years are not available.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the data on rateable values used as the basis of the statement on page 12 of his Department's consultation paper on the transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England that when transitional relief on the 2005 rating list ended on 1 April 2009 many businesses still faced large increases to their full bill; [289909]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of 100,000 former recipients of transitional relief receiving significantly higher 2009-10 rates bills, referred to in his Department's Explanatory Memorandum to the Non-Domestic Rating (Deferred Payments) (England) Regulations 2009, which were *(a)* small and *(b)* large properties in each region; and what the average percentage increase was in bills in respect of those properties in 2009-10. [289914]

Barbara Follett: The statement on page 12 of the consultation paper "Transitional Arrangements for the Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England" was based on information contained in the August 2004 consultation paper "NNDR Transitional Arrangements: Consultation" which stated that 3,750 large properties and 90,000 small properties would benefit from transitional relief in the fourth year of the scheme. No estimates are available for the regional split.

The earlier consultation paper can be found in the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/430100.pdf

The amount of transitional relief awarded in 2008-09 was £99 million. We do not collect data on the number of properties that received that relief.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the overall percentage change in the rateable value of *(a)* small and *(b)* large properties will be in each region under the 2010 rates revaluation. [289910]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the overall percentage change in the rateable value of small and large properties in each region under the 2010 revaluation.

A small property is defined as having a rateable value less than £18,000, or £25,500 in London. This is the definition proposed in the 2010 Transitional Relief consultation document published on 8 July 2009.

The analysis uses data from the Local List only; properties on the Central List are excluded.

	Percentage change in rateable value	
Government Office Region	*Small properties*	*Large properties*
North East	13.9	19.4
North West	15.8	16.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	14.7	18.6
East Midlands	2.1	8.3
West Midlands	11.1	11.6
East of England	16.3	16.0
London	23.7	32.2
South East	11.8	13.5
South West	23.4	22.8
England (Local List only)	15.8	20.0

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department used to calculate the increase in the small business rateable value threshold for *(a)* London and *(b)* elsewhere referred to on page 10 of his Department's consultation paper on transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England. [289911]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The thresholds to be used in the 2010 transitional arrangements for large and small properties have been calculated by taking the same thresholds from the 2005 scheme, increasing them by the overall percentage increase in rateable values at the 2010 revaluation and then rounding them to the nearest £500. These figures are based on the same ratings list as used for the consultation document Transitional Arrangements for the Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England" published on 8 July 2009. The ratings list is a live database and is continually being updated (to reflect appeals, deletions, additions, physical alterations, splits and mergers).

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deletions from the ratings list have been made in each region in each year from 2004-05 to 2009-10; and what the total rateable value was of such deletions in each such year. [289912]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is contained within the following table:

Assessments deleted[2] from the 2000 and 2005 rating lists as at 31 July 2009

Government region	*Year*	*Rating list*	*Number assessments*	*Rateable value*
East Midlands	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	2,916	30,398,443
East Midlands	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	2,826	39,787,299
East Midlands	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	2,757	36,129,261
East Midlands	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	3,048	41,483,065
East Midlands	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	3,075	51,895,099
East Midlands	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	875	13,738,991
East Midlands total			15,497	213,432,158
East of England	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	3,537	49,827,682
East of England	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	3,583	65,885,305
East of England	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	3,601	62,652,649
East of England	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	4,046	64,319,289
East of England	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	3,938	83,957,242
East of England	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	991	18,332,412
East of England total			19,696	344,974,579
London	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	6,157	422,044,961
London	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	5,981	220,307,586
London	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	6,928	297,295,804
London	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	7,652	321,816,042
London	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	7,985	294,874,526
London	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	2,023	61,508,545
London total			36,726	1,617,847,464
North East	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	1,513	13,305,049
North East	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	1,508	22,736,020
North East	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	1,678	21,876,766
North East	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	1,607	31,516,786
North East	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	1,669	33,387,299
North East	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	532	6,766,727
North East total			8,507	129,588,647
North West	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	5,293	57,247,295
North West	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	5,098	62,974,039
North West	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	4,981	68,810,272
North West	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	5,582	89,658,351
North West	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	5,828	105,989,797
North West	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	1,767	31,218,774
North West total			28,549	415,898,528
South East	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	5,232	81,451,428
South East	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	4,887	103,447,565
South East	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	4,885	104,021,083
South East	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	5,157	112,603,829
South East	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	5,361	125,570,746
South East	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	1,525	30,431,408
South East total			27,047	557,526,059
South West	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	4,569	31,213,242
South West	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	4,389	47,005,559
South West	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	4,336	46,106,217
South West	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	4,972	52,777,633
South West	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	4,868	69,491,427
South West	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	1,298	17,850,427
South West total			24,432	264,444,505
Wales	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	2,266	15,553,645
Wales	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	2,269	23,561,379
Wales	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	2,205	31,320,039
Wales	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	2,574	25,227,448
Wales	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	2,546	25,915,050
Wales	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	622	9,303,793

Assessments deleted[1] from the 2000 and 2005 rating lists as at 31 July 2009

Government region	*Year*	*Rating list*	*Number assessments*	*Rateable value*
Wales total			12,482	130,883,354
West Midlands	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	3,390	45,381,231
West Midlands	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	3,514	60,262,742
West Midlands	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	3,767	64,893,836
West Midlands	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	3,922	74,134,718
West Midlands	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	4,107	89,269,673
West Midlands	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	1,162	17,367,210
West Midlands total			19,862	351,309,410
Yorkshire and the Humber	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	4,008	37,935,653
Yorkshire and the Humber	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	3,991	48,377,188
Yorkshire and the Humber	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	3,852	42,499,948
Yorkshire and the Humber	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	4,450	57,583,166
Yorkshire and the Humber	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	4,481	70,082,585
Yorkshire and the Humber	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	1,249	24,213,342
Yorkshire and the Humber total			22,031	280,691,882
Total	April 2004 to March 2005	2000 Rating List	38,881	784,358,629
Total	April 2005 to March 2006	2005 Rating List	38,046	694,344,682
Total	April 2006 to March 2007	2005 Rating List	38,990	775,605,875
Total	April 2007 to March 2008	2005 Rating List	43,010	871,120,327
Total	April 2008 to March 2009	2005 Rating List	43,858	990,433,444
Total	April 2009 to March 2010	2005 Rating List	12,044	230,733,629
Total			214,829	4,306,996,586

[1] Excludes all reconstituted deletions and property effected by boundary or address changes.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the data on rateable values used as the basis for the statement in his Department's press releases of 8 July 2009, Government consults on help with business rate bills, that as a result of revaluation and the relief arrangements one million businesses will see an average decrease of £770 in 2010-11. [289913]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 2010 business rates revaluation will reduce the rates bill for 1,028,500 properties. In total their rates bill will fall by £787,660,000 in 2010-11 after transitional relief but before inflation. That is an average, after rounding, of £770 per property. These figures are based on the same ratings list as used for the consultation document "The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England" published on 8 July 2009. The ratings list is a live database and is continually being updated (to reflect appeals, deletions, additions, physical alterations, splits and mergers).

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much of the costs to Government of the Non-Domestic Rating (Deferred Payments) (England) Regulations 2009, referred to in the impact assessment for those Regulations are attributable to *(a)* bad debt and *(b)* the value of the discounted repayments being less than the value of the deferred amount. [289915]

Barbara Follett: The Impact Assessment to accompany the Non-Domestic Rating (Deferred Payments) (England) Regulations estimated that between 50 per cent. and 90 per cent. of businesses will choose to defer the increase in their rates bill in 2009-10; and the percentage of revenue that could be written off as bad debt could be between 1 per cent. and 5 per cent. of the total amount deferred. On this basis, the amount of bad debt is estimated to be between £2 million and £20 million in both 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Using the standard discount rate of 3.5 per cent. and assuming between 50 per cent. and 90 per cent. of businesses take up the option to defer the increase in business rates in 2009-10 and that between 1 per cent. and 5 per cent. of payments will be written off as bad debt, the final net present value of the deferral scheme to Government is estimated at between £20 million and £80 million. The rationale behind the standard discount rate can be found in annex 6 of HM Treasury's Green Book.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of payments due under *(a)* the business rates deferral scheme and *(b)* transitional arrangements for the non-domestic ratings revaluation 2010 his Department expects to be written off as bad debt. [289916]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Impact Assessment accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Deferred Payments) Regulations states that the amount of revenue written off as bad debt resulting from ratepayers choosing to defer the increase in their business rates could be between 1 per cent. and 5 per cent. of the total amount deferred.

No estimate has been made of the percentage of payments that are expected to be written off as bad debt as the transitional arrangements themselves do not lead to any outstanding liabilities which are at risk of bad debt.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the £50,000 threshold for the new supplementary business rate in London will be increased in line with the average increase in rateable values following the 2010 business rates revaluation. [289356]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 350W.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received from Ministerial colleagues on the effect of the application of retrospective business rates on firms located in ports in the last 12 months. [290467]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department maintains regular communications with ministerial colleagues. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such communications.

Parish Councils: Sustainable Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to give a greater role for parish and town councils under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [292428]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities already have a duty to involve local representatives when carrying out any of their functions and parish and town councils should be consulted as part of the process for submitting proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. A clause to that effect was included in the statutory guidance for local authorities which can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous

Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure that planning application data held by local authorities and collected via a standardised hub connector interface is available to the public. [289503]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning applications are public documents which local planning authorities are required to publish on a planning register. Many planning registers are made available online.

The e-Consultation hub is a central computer system, connected to the internet, that facilitates more rapid and efficient consultations between all participants in the planning process. It does not hold data itself but standardises and facilitates the transfer of data between all parties.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to ensure that central government bodies which are statutory consultees on planning applications provide comments in a timely manner. [289541]

John Healey: The Government are developing proposals to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of engagement by all statutory consultees, as part of a programme of measures in response to the recommendations of Killian Pretty Review of the planning application process. It is proposed to publish draft proposals for consultation on this matter later in 2009.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which local authorities core strategies have been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate as unsound; and for what reasons. [290478]

Mr. Ian Austin: Eight authorities have had their core strategy development plan documents found unsound. The authorities are Carrick District Council (as was); Chichester District Council; Lichfield City Council; Ryedale District Council; Stafford Borough Council; Restormel Borough Council (as was); Teignbridge District Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

A paper has been placed in the House Library which sets out in summary the reasons why each core strategy has been found sound.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of planning applications made in each district or single tier authority were determined by planning inspectors in the latest period for which figures are available. [291659]

Mr. Ian Austin: None. Planning Inspectors determine appeals against refusal of planning permission or non-determination of planning applications.

Political Impartiality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grades of official in his Department may not stand as candidates in *(a)* local and *(b)* general elections. [289550]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The rules for civil servants wishing to undertake political activity are set by the Cabinet Office and can be found in the Civil Service Management Code on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/index.aspx

Private Rented Housing: Standards

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of privately owned properties which meet the Decent Homes standard. [290230]

Mr. Ian Austin: The English House Condition Survey estimates that 11.75 million privately owned properties in England met the Decent Homes standard in 2007 (the most recently available estimate from the survey). These properties comprised 64 per cent. of all privately owned in England.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government has taken to ensure private landlords comply with health and safety legislation in their properties. [291520]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) is a risk-based evaluation tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings. It was introduced under the Housing Act 2004 and came into effect on 6 April 2006. It applies to residential properties in England including those in the private rented sector.

The HHSRS assesses 29 categories of housing hazard, each hazard has a weighting which will help determine whether the property is rated as having category 1 (serious) or category 2 (other) hazards. Local authorities are responsible for the local implementation and enforcement of the HHSRS. If a property is found to contain serious hazards, the local authority has a duty to take the most appropriate action in relation to the hazard.

The Housing Act 2004 also introduced mandatory houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licensing which places a duty on private landlords of licensable HMOs to ensure that their properties meet basic health and safety standards.

There are a choice of enforcement options which are available to local authorities. The route followed is for the authority to decide, having regard to statutory enforcement guidance.

Property Development: Internet

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will amend planning guidance to require provision for high-speed internet access to be made in the construction of major new housing developments. [289879]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning policy guidance note 8: Telecommunications (PPG8) sets out Government policy on planning and telecommunications states that in considering planning applications for other forms of development, planning authorities will wish to consider telecommunications issues. They should encourage prospective developers of new housing, office and industrial estates to consider with all relevant telecommunications operators how the telecommunications needs of the occupiers will be met. Developers should provide adequate ducting for telecommunications cables (and for other services where appropriate) to be installed at the outset both underground and in the structure of the building, sufficient to meet foreseeable demand for competitive services likely to be provided to those estates.

PPG8 does not specifically refer to provision for high speed internet access but this is clearly an important aspect of modern communication and is within the scope of PPG8.

Local planning authorities should develop and apply their own policies on high-speed internet access in line with this national policy guidance taking into account the development priorities for their area.

Regeneration: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will support tax incremental funding pilots to promote local authority-led regeneration. [290483]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are working with interested local authorities and city regions to assess the scope for accelerating development by allowing investment in infrastructure to be financed from the increased property tax base that could be enabled by the existence of improved infrastructure. As part of this, the Government are exploring with local authorities the potential benefits, costs and feasibility of piloting such an approach.

The Government will report on this analysis, and the options for taking it forward, in the 2009 pre-Budget Report.

Regional Planning and Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 889W, on the Sub-National Review, when he will place in the Library copies of the summaries of the Steering Group meetings. [289627]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have placed summaries of the Steering Group meetings in the House Library.

Rented Housing: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many landlords have applied for a selective licence in Coventry. [291519]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is no selective licensing designation currently in place in Coventry city council and therefore no landlords have applied for a selective licence in Coventry.

Rents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average weekly rent rates were for tenants residing in *(a)* private housing, *(b)* housing association and other housing provided by registered social landlords and *(c)* local authority housing in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [291437]

Mr. Ian Austin: Average monthly rents for private tenants in England are published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 731. These monthly rents equate to average weekly rents of £129 in 2007-08. Data for private rents in 2008-09 are not yet available. These rent estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

Table 731 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141452.xls

Average weekly rents for registered social landlords are published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 704. As at 31 March, the average weekly rent in England was £70 in 2008 and was £74 in 2009. These rent figures apply to general needs units only and are collected by the Tenant Services Authority, through the regulatory statistical return.

Table 704 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141632.xls

Average weekly rents for local authorities are published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 702. The average weekly rent in England was £62 in 2007-08 and £64 in 2008-09 (provisional). These rent figures are collected from housing revenue account subsidy forms.

Table 702 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-702.xls

Repossession Orders

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been repossessed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North-East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [291803]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2357

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Repossession Orders: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions there were in Coventry in the last quarter for which information is available. [291521]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However, both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on repossessions is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2357

The Financial Services Authority data is available on their website at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

Retail Trade: Worksop

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions and for what reasons the District Auditor has corresponded with Bassetlaw council concerning the Turner Road development in Worksop in the last 12 months. [292387]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The District Auditor has written to Bassetlaw district council about the Turner Road development on one occasion in the last 12 months. This followed an approach by Bassetlaw district council to request his views on the development project.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what delays in the Turner Road development site in Worksop have resulted from District Auditor interventions in the last 12 months. [292388]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I am not aware of any delay in the Turner Road development resulting from District Auditor intervention.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many shared ownership purchases have been made in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England by people on social housing waiting lists in each year since 2000; and what proportion of all such sales in each of those areas this represented in each such year. [289407]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 134W.

Sleeping Rough: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of rough sleepers in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1990. [290461]

Mr. Ian Austin: Annual rough sleeping figures have been collected since 1998. The figures are based on local authority street counts and until 2008, estimates where a street count did not take place.

Number of rough sleepers

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Hemel Hempstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Dacorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Hertfordshire	30	27	11	4	1	0	5	0	5	2	5	5

Sleeping Rough: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of rough sleepers in each local authority area in the North-West in each year since 1990; and what methodology his Department uses to calculate such estimates. [289277]

Mr. Ian Austin: Annual rough sleeping figures have been collected since 1998. The figures are based on local authority street counts and until 2008 estimates where a street count did not take place. Local authorities evaluate the extent of rough sleeping within their area in accordance with the methodology on street counts set out in CLG's "Guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping—2007 revision".

Number of rough sleepers in the north west:

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Cheshire												
Cheshire East (Congleton, Crewe and Nantwich and Macclesfield)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Cheshire West and Chester (Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston and Vale Royal)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Congleton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Crewe and Nantwich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	n/a
Macclesfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	n/a
Chester	21	26	16	3	1	1	1	1	6	6	9	n/a
Ellesmere Port and Neston	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	n/a
Vale Royal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Halton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Warrington	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cumbria												
Allerdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Copeland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Barrow in Furness	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	—
Carlisle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	—
Eden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
South Lakeland	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	—
Greater Manchester												
Bolton	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Bury	12	6	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	—
Manchester	31	44	23	17	19	9	18	7	5	7	11	9
Oldham	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Rochdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Salford	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Stockport	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	1	—
Tameside	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Trafford	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Wigan	11	2	2	0	0	0	8	2	2	0	0	—
Lancashire												
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Blackpool	15	12	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	0	7	—
Burnley	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	—
Chorley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Fylde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Hyndburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Lancaster	21	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Pendle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Preston	0	0	2	0	3	0	14	3	3	0	8	—
Ribble Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Rossendale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
South Ribble	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
West Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Wyre	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Merseyside												
Knowsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—

Number of rough sleepers in the north west:

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Liverpool	17	30	19	13	19	19	10	8	9	12	13	9
Sefton	21	21	17	5	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	—
St Helens	11	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	—
Wirral	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	0	3	3	0	—
Total	181	194	108	47	49	37	64	35	36	33	54	32

Social Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average annual cost to a registered social landlord arising from their designation as a public body; and if he will make a statement. [291581]

Mr. Ian Austin: No such estimate has been made. Registered social landlords (RSLs) are independent, not-for-profit organisations that are responsible for their own aims, objectives, performance and management. The Tenant Services Authority regulates RSLs in England to ensure that they provide decent homes and services for tenants.

Social Rented Housing: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association homes in each local authority area in the East of England met the Decent Homes Standard in each of the last 10 years. [289298]

Mr. Ian Austin: A set of tables containing the information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Social Rented Housing: Freedom of Information

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons registered social landlords (RSLs) are exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; in what ways RSLs are accountable to their residents; and what powers local councils have over RSLs operating in their area. [290436]

Mr. Ian Austin: In relation to the reasons why RSLs are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 593W.

RSLs are independent not-for-profit organisations responsible for their own aims, objectives, performance and management. The Government sponsors the Tenant Services Authority to regulate RSLs to ensure that they provide decent homes and services for tenants.

Local councils have no regulatory powers over RSLs operating in their area.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has commissioned research into the legality of giving priority in social housing allocation policies to local residents; and if he will make a statement. [290424]

John Healey: Under the Housing Act 1996, local authorities may take into account any local connection which exists between an applicant and the authority's area, in determining priority between those in the reasonable preference categories.

New statutory guidance, which we have published for consultation, ("Fair and Flexible", July 2009) reinforces the message that local authorities have flexibility to take into account local needs and priorities when determining their allocation policies, including local connection.

Allocation schemes that include local connection should not discriminate against any ethnic group and must comply with the relevant equalities legislation.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have been on social housing waiting lists in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North-East and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [291544]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of households registered on social housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year from 1997 to 2008, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

This information is not available for constituencies.

Social Sector Working Party

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 699W, whether the concerns raised at the meeting with the representatives of the London Leasehold Officers' Forum on 12 August 2009 will be included in the agenda for the next meeting of the Social Sector Working Party. [289376]

Mr. Ian Austin: It was agreed at the Social Sector Working Party meeting held on 20 January that the most appropriate way forward in respect of section 152 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 was to allow the Working Party the opportunity to comment on the associated draft regulations when they were available. A copy was sent to them and comments were received from one member of the Working Party which will be taken into account.

A copy was also sent to the representatives of the London Leasehold Officers' Forum following concerns raised at the meeting on 12 May. Comments from both groups will be taken into account when finalising the regulations.

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to hold a second round of bids by local authorities under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [289538]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State invited local authorities to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act to the Local Government Association, acting as 'selector', by 31 July 2009. We are co-operating with the Local Government Association as they draw up a short-list of proposals. The timing of future rounds will be considered once the Government have had the opportunity to evaluate the implementation of the relevant sections of the Act.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which principal authorities intend to participate in the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [292427]

Barbara Follett: Following the Secretary of State's invitation, which was issued in October 2008, 100 local authorities have submitted proposals under section 2 of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. This includes 90 lead authorities and a further 10 authorities included in joint proposals.

The 100 local authorities are:

Adur District Council
Ashford Borough Council
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Bexley London Borough Council
Birmingham City Council
Borough of Poole
Brighton and Hove City Council
Bristol City Council
Burnley Borough Council
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cambridge City Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Cheshire West and Chester
Chorley Borough Council
Christchurch Borough Council
City of York Council
Craven District Council
Croydon London Borough Council
Darlington Borough Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Dorset County Council
East Devon District Council
East Lindsey District Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Essex County Council
Exeter City Council
Hackney London Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough Council
Hampshire County Council
Harrogate Borough Council
Harrow London Borough Council
Hastings Borough Council
Herefordshire Council
High Peak Borough Council
Islington London Borough Council
Kent County Council
Kettering Borough Council
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Lambeth London Borough Council
Leeds City Council
Lewes District Council
Lewisham London Borough Council
Liverpool City Council
Maldon District Council
Mid Devon District Council
Mid Sussex District Council
Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council
Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Norfolk County Council
North Dorset District Council
North Somerset Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Norwich City Council
Nottingham City Council
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Pendle Borough Council
Purbeck District Council
Redbridge London Borough Council
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Richmondshire District Council
Rother District Council
Ryedale District Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Selby District Council
Sheffield City Council
South Gloucestershire Council
South Hams District Council
South Kesteven District Council
South Lakeland District Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
South Somerset District Council
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Southampton City Council
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Southwark Council
St. Albans City and District Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Stroud District Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Sutton London Borough Council
Teignbridge District Council
Torridge District Council
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council
Warwick District Council
West Devon Borough Council

West Dorset District Council
West Lancashire District Council
West Oxfordshire District Council
Westminster City Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Wiltshire Council
Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Worthing Borough Council
Wycombe District Council

Tenancy Deposit Schemes

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to lift the £25,000 rental cap on the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. [292118]

John Healey: The Government's response to the Review of the Private Rented Sector, published for consultation in May, announced our intention to review the annual rental threshold for assured and assured shorthold tenancies. The consultation closed in August and we are now considering the responses received.

Tenant Services Authority

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultations the Tenant Services Authority has undertaken since its inception; and *(a)* how much each such consultation had cost and *(b)* in which phase each such consultation was on the latest date for which figures are available. [291668]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since its establishment in December 2008, the Tenant Services Authority has undertaken a 'National Conversation' with tenants and landlords in order to inform the development of its new regulatory framework. The National Conversation is being conducted in two phases. 27,000 social housing tenants from across the country took part in the first phase, which ran from January to March 2009. The second phase is currently ongoing.

In relation to the cost of the National Conversation, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 251W.

Vacant Land

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to permit local authorities to prohibit the speculative subdivision and sale of small plots of *(a)* greenfield and *(b)* green belt land without planning permission. [290472]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are existing planning powers available to local authorities to control the physical subdivision of land, principally Article 4 Directions which restrict permitted development rights. These powers can be used in relation to both greenfield and green belt land. The Government do not intend to bring forward further proposals at this time.

Waste Disposal: Planning Permission

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for waste facility plants have been made in the last 12 months; how many of these have been approved; how many such proposals included *(a)* energy recovery, *(b)* recycling and *(c)* composting; how many landfill sites are in operation; and how many landfill sites have ceased to operate in the last 12 months. [291689]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government collects statistics on the total number of planning applications made on county matters, but this is not broken down into type of proposed development. However, statistics are collected on the number of planning applications decided for waste facility plants. Applications approved in any particular year are not necessarily the same facilities for which applications were made in that year.

Information on the number of applications approved for the requested types of facilities for the period requested is set out in the following table:

England: July 2008 to June 2009

	Number
Total number of waste applications decided	975
Total number of waste applications granted	893
Of which:	
Number of incineration with energy recovery	11
Anaerobic digestion	12
Pyrolysis	4
Material recovery/recycling	116
composting	47

Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns, CPS1/2

Information on the number of landfill sites is held by the Environment Agency. There are currently 484 operational landfill sites in England and Wales. 26 sites ceased to accept waste or started closure proceedings between September 2008 and 2009.

TRANSPORT

Association of Train Operating Companies

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what discussions his Department has had with the Association of Train Operating Companies in the last 12 months; and when those discussions took place; [290018]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Association of Train Operating Companies on the proposed outsourcing of the work of the National Rail Enquiries Service; [290019]

(3) whether the proposed outsourcing of the work of the National Rail Enquiries Service requires the approval of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [290020]

Chris Mole: Departmental Ministers and officials have frequent meetings with representatives of the Association of Train Operating Companies to discuss a range of issues. Outsourcing the operation of the National Rail Enquiries service has been discussed but does not require the Department for Transport's approval.

Aviation

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of trends in the rate of *(a)* air proximity incidents and *(b)* risk-bearing incidents in UK airspace in each of the last five years. [291492]

Paul Clark: I am informed by the independent UK Airprox Board that the number of air proximity events for commercial air transport and general aviation has declined during the period 2004 to 2008, as set out in the following table.

During this period, the number of risk bearing events (airprox categories A and B) for commercial air transport fell from eight to two and for general aviation from 55 to 39.

Military airprox are a matter for the Ministry of Defence. Full details of airprox reports and analysis are to be found at:

www.airproxboard.org.uk

Commercial Air Transport Airprox

Category[1]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
A	1	1	0	0	0
B	7	7	6	5	2
C	67	78	68	60	58
D	4	1	0	0	1
Total	79	87	74	65	61

General Aviation Airprox

Category	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
A	13	16	10	8	8
B	42	41	36	30	31
C	71	75	57	65	55
D	4	1	0	0	4
Total	130	133	103	103	98

[1] There are four airprox categories:
A—Risk of Collision: An actual risk of collision existed
B—Safety not assured: The safety of the aircraft was compromised
C—No risk of collision: No risk of collision existed
D—Risk not determined: Insufficient information was available to determine the risk involved, or inconclusive or conflicting evidence precluded such determination
A 'risk-bearing' airprox is one that falls into category A or B.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pensioners who are entitled to a concessionary bus pass in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire. [289432]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not maintain records of how many people in local authorities are eligible for concessionary bus passes as concessionary travel is administered locally by Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs).

All older people aged 60 and over are entitled to receive a concessionary bus pass. The Department does not hold figures specifically for Hemel Hempstead which is part of Dacorum TCA. Work that was conducted by the Department prior to the implementation of the national bus concession showed that as of October 2007, there were 28,296 older people eligible for a concessionary bus pass in Dacorum and 214,415 across all of Hertfordshire.

Buses: Government Assistance

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of introducing and operating for a 12-month period a scrappage scheme for buses akin to that recently introduced in respect of cars. [289301]

Mr. Khan: The cost of a scrappage scheme would vary depending on the design, for example what age of bus it would apply to and the size of the incentive, as well as the market response to the scheme. Rather than introduce a scrappage scheme, we have announced a fund to support the purchase of new low carbon buses. The Green Bus Fund will provide government funding of £30 million over the next two years and is expected to lead to the introduction and operation of several hundred new low carbon buses in England.

As part of the assessment criteria for the Green Bus Fund, bidders will be given credit for any older buses they intend to replace with the new low carbon bus. This will therefore meet the objectives of a scrappage scheme with the added benefit that all the new buses will contribute towards reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Cycling: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in each of the last three years. [292025]

Mr. Khan: The four main streams of departmental funding to encourage cycling in England are local transport plan funding, cycle training grants, "cycle city and town" funding and links to school funding.

Local Transport Plan funding

The Department allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

In the last three years Birmingham received the following amounts of LTP capital funding:

	£
2006-07	23,154,000
2007-08	14,969,000
2008-09	20,623,000
2009-10	19,642,000

This information is not available at constituency level.

Cycle Training Grants

We have awarded cycle training grants to local authorities since 2006-07 to encourage cycling to school. We also provide funding for training direct in schools via grants to the School Sports Partnerships.

Birmingham city council has received the following cycle training grants:

	£
2007-08	17,600.00
2008-09	40,000.00
2009-10	99,840.00

Birmingham did not receive cycle training grant in 2006-07.

Links to schools

Between April 2006 and March 2009 Sustrans (Sustainable Transport Charity) has on the Department's behalf made available £235,000 in grants for the West Midlands region to deliver a Links to Schools programme working with local authorities. Birmingham City Council was not amongst the grant receivers.

The purpose of the funding is to encourage children to walk and cycle to school. Funding priorities are established by Sustrans. Sustrans is in the final stages of fully finalising their project list for 2009-10 and will be submitting a complete list to DFT shortly.

Cycling: Finance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in each local authority area in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [289392]

Mr. Khan: The four main streams of departmental funding to encourage cycling in England are local transport plan funding, cycle training grants, "Cycle City and Town" funding and links to school funding. Funding for cycling in Wales is administered by the Welsh Assembly and not by the Department for Transport.

Local Transport Plan Funding

The Department allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

Cycle Training Grants

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 89W.

Cycle City and Town Funding

The Department for transport funds 18 Cycle Cities and Towns through Cycling England. The first phase of the Cycling Demonstration Towns programme, from 2005 to 2008, saw six towns across England receive European levels of funding to significantly increase their cycling levels. Aylesbury, Brighton and Hove, Darlington, Derby, Exeter and Lancaster with Morecambe collectively received over £7 million from Cycling England across three years, plus local match-funding, to deliver a range of measures designed to get more people cycling.

In June 2008, Cycling England announced Greater Bristol as the England's first official Cycling City, together with a further 11 Cycling Towns across England. The new city and towns, together with the original six, will benefit from a share of £50 million of departmental funding (match funded by the local authority) to pioneer innovative ways to increase cycling in their areas.

The following table shows the funding situation as agreed with Cycling England in May 2009.

City or town	*Local authority*	*2005-08*[1]	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Aylesbury	Buckinghamshire	765,000	460,000	300,000	300,000	1,825,000
Blackpool	Blackpool	—	400,000	1,220,000	1,220,000	2,840,000
Brighton and Hove	Brighton and Hove	1,309,500	435,000	615,000	535,000	2,994,500
Cambridge	Cambridgeshire	—	500,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	3,600,000
Chester	Cheshire	—	400,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,400,000
Colchester	Colchester	—	350,000	900,000	900,000	2,150,000
Darlington	Darlington	1,148,710	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,648,710
Derby	Derby	1,300,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,800,000
Exeter	Devon	1,599,500	751,000	730,500	760,500	3,821,500
Greater Bristol	Bristol City and South Gloucestershire	—	1,400,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	11,400,000
Lancaster with Morecambe	Lancashire	1,309,200	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,809,200
Leighton-Linslade	Central Bedfordshire	—	588,900	281,000	270,100	1,140,000
Shrewsbury	Shropshire	—	600,000	600,000	600,000	1,800,000
Southend	Southend	—	398,000	1,398,000	1,404,000	3,200,000
Southport and Ainsdale	Sefton Borough Council	—	300,000	750,000	750,000	1,800,000
Stoke	Stoke on Trent	—	880,000	2,000,000	1,920,000	4,800,000
Woking	Surrey	—	364,000	728,000	728,000	1,820,000
York	York City Council	—	535,000	1,555,000	1,590,000	3,680,000
Total	—	7,471,910	9,861,900	20,167,500	20,027,600	57,528,910

[1] 1 November 2005 to 31 March 2008.

Links to schools

The Department provides funding to local authorities for the Links to Schools programme through our delivery agent Sustrans (Sustainable Transport Charity). The purpose of the funding is to encourage children to walk and cycle to school. Funding priorities are established by Sustrans. Sustrans is in the final stages of fully finalising their project list for 2009-10 and will be submitting a complete list to the Department shortly. A table showing the funding for 2005-06 to 2008-09 has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Cycling: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the last three years; [289433]

(2) how much his Department allocated for cycle safety training in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [289446]

Mr. Khan: Department for Transport funding to encourage bicycle usage in Dacorum and Hemel Hempstead constituency is largely delivered through Hertfordshire county council. We do not allocate funding directly to Dacorum or Hemel Hempstead. The main three streams of departmental funding to encourage cycling are local transport plan funding, cycle training grants and links to school funding.

Local Transport Plan funding

The Department allocates integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities for general capital investment in transport. This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Local transport plan funding for Hertfordshire is shown in the table:

Hertfordshire

				£000
	Integrated Transport	*Formulaic Maintenance*	*Other LTP*	*Total LTP funding*
2009-10	2,245	9,698	100	12,043
2008-09	11,512	11,151	394	23,057
2007-08	11,626	11,263	—	22,889

Cycle training grants

DFT cycle training grants are only available for national standard training, delivered in England as Bikeability training. Bikeability training promotes safe cycling for children. Cycle training funding for Hertfordshire for the last three years is shown in the table:

Hertfordshire

	Grant (£)
2007-08	59,500
2008-09	65,000
2009-10	70,000

This is in addition to any training funded by Hertfordshire county council.

Links to Schools and Cycle Parking

The Department also provides funding to local authorities for the Links to Schools programme through our delivery agent Sustrans (Sustainable Transport Charity). The purpose of the links is to encourage children to use sustainable modes (walking and cycling) on their way to and from school by creating safer and more convenient routes.

The following table shows departmental funding allocated to links to schools. The funding for 2007-08 was for links to a school in Hertford. With the contribution of the local authority, the total expenditure was £100,000.

Hertfordshire

	Grant (£)
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	32,436
2008-09	0

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on advertising in each newspaper in the latest year for which figures are available. [289481]

Chris Mole: This information for the Department for Transport and its agencies is not held centrally in this format and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in which of his Department's agencies consultants are acting as interim project managers. [289564]

Chris Mole: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* Blackberrys and *(c)* laptop computers have been issued to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following the (A) loss or (B) theft of a previous device. [290586]

Chris Mole: The following tables show the known details for DfT (Central) and its agencies—in some cases, certain individual figures are unavailable, or available only at disproportionate cost. We are unable to split between existing and new staff. Where it is unclear whether original items are lost or stolen, they are shown as lost.

The Department for Transport is very conscious of its data security responsibilities and ensures that all mobile data units are properly encrypted.

DfT (Central)	*Mobiles issued*	*Blackberrys issued*	*Laptops issued*	*Mobiles replaced after loss or theft*	*Black Berrys replaced after loss or theft (cannot differentiate)*	*Laptops replaced after loss or theft*
2004-05	n/a	0	262	n/a	0	3
2005-06	n/a	0	349	n/a	0	3
2006-07	[1]539	185	195	n/a	0	3
2007-08	[1]680	94	202	n/a	4	8

DfT (Central)	Mobiles issued[1]	Blackberrys issued	Laptops issued	Mobiles replaced after loss or theft	BlackBerrys replaced after loss or theft (cannot differentiate)	Laptops replaced after loss or theft
2008-09	[1]1,150	136	296	n/a	14	5

[1] Detailed records were not kept of the individual issue of new mobiles in DfT (Central)—the figures marked with an asterisk are the estimated total numbers held at the mid point of the year.

	Mobiles issued (excluding Blackberry)	Blackberrys issued	Laptops issued	Mobiles replaced after loss or theft	BlackBerrys replaced after loss or theft	Laptops replaced after loss or theft
2004-05	1,119	10	1,593	[1]24	0	[1]8
	—	—	—	[2]8	—	—
2005-06	1,484	40	1,637	[1]15	0	[1]6
	—	—	—	[2]5	—	[2]2
2006-07	1,611	170	1,457	[1]17	[1]1	[1]6
	—	—	—	[2]6	—	[2]11
2007-08	1,838	305	2,170	[1]3	[1]1	[1]3
	—	—	—	[2]11	—	[2]9
2008-09	1,746	327	722	[1]6	0	[1]2
	—	—	—	[2]6	—	[2]9

[1] Lost.
[2] Stolen.

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff within the Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290593]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport (DfT) operate a Flexible Working Hours System which allows employees, subject to operational needs and line management agreement, to start and finish work between a flexible range of agreed hours provided they are present during certain hours of the day known as core-time and work a set number of hours each week. Staff can choose to take time off for any accrued time.

Not all DfT's business units keep a central record of the number of staff who participate in flexi-time arrangements and not all are able to provide the numbers of staff who have participated in flexi-time arrangements over the last five years. This information can be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Legislation

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which legislative provisions introduced by the Department since 1997 have not yet been brought into force. [292339]

Chris Mole: I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of the provisions in Acts for which the Department for Transport has lead responsibility, which have received Royal Assent since 1 January 1997 and which remain to be brought into force.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which legislative provisions introduced by his Department's predecessors since 1997 have been repealed. [292340]

Chris Mole: I have placed in the Libraries of the House a list of the provisions in Acts for which the Department for Transport has lead responsibility, which have received Royal Assent since 1 January 1997 and which have been repealed.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each Civil Service pay band. [290589]

Chris Mole: The central Department for Transport and its agencies recorded average length of employment of staff by civil service pay band as:

CS grade	Years
SCS	9.72
Grade 6	11.51
Grade 7	11.57
SEO	11.95
HEO	11.41
EO	9.26
AO	9.27
AA	10.09
Industrial	5.75

Departmental Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many properties owned by his Department were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the liability in respect of each was in each such year. [290594]

Chris Mole: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290593]

Chris Mole: The information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289733]

Chris Mole: I have assumed responsibility as the Minister responsible for overseeing delivery of value for money in the Department for Transport. The Department is committed to reforming public services to improve services to the citizen and we are working closely with colleagues in the centre of Government on this important agenda.

We have set in hand work to review our corporate functions and to lead our transformation programme, which will complement the work going on in the government-wide Operational Efficiency programme. At the strategic level we are also participating fully in the Public Value programme, which will help to establish key priorities going forward, whilst deriving the maximum value for money in how we carry out our business.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290309]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport holds employee diversity data in line with the statutory monitoring requirements for public bodies set out in the Race Relations Act. This includes recruitment.

The Department additionally maintains this information by gender and disability. The Department also holds diversity data by age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, and by working pattern.

This information is published on the websites of the central Department and on those of the Department's agencies. However, information for all of the last three years is not available for all parts of the Department.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [290663]

Chris Mole: For the latest period, financial year 2008-09, the Department for Transport, including its Executive agencies, recycled 47 per cent. of its waste arisings.

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many sick days were taken by staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse of these absences was. [290588]

Chris Mole: Since 2006 staff sickness has been published quarterly via the Department for Transport external website. Figures are provided using a rolling 12-month period as per Cabinet Office sickness absence methodology:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/sickabsence/sickabsence

Under previous reporting methodology an average salary has been used to calculate the cost of sickness absence to the public purse. However, under current Cabinet Office methodology an average salary has not been identified. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289605]

Chris Mole: The following table lists the number of external training courses attended by staff in the Department for Transport (DfT) where information is available, however it has not been possible to provide costs for each course:

Agency	*Number of training courses*	*Total cost (£)*
Driving Standards Agency	120	184,415
Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	112	176,149
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	132	113,186
Government Car and Despatch Agency	8	43,458
Vehicle Certification Agency	[1]—	264,536

[1] Figures not available.

This information is not held centrally by the Central DfT, Highways Agency, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and would incur disproportionate costs to obtain this.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on *(a)* train travel, *(b)* air travel and *(c)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [290116]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil

Service Management Code respectively, and all spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

The Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety and ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

The Department for Transport will shortly be publishing details of expenses and hospitality received by senior officials on a quarterly basis.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Data Protection

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent reports he has received of the use of data illegally obtained from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on behalf of media organisations; and if he will make a statement. [289727]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has received no reports about the use of data illegally obtained from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency on behalf of media organisations.

eCall

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his policy is on the implementation of eCall in-car communication technology in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU; what estimate his Department has made of the costs and benefits of implementation of this technology; and if he will make a statement. [291491]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1724W.

The European Commission is currently finalising a further study including a review of eCall deployment within UK. We will review the report when it is made available and consider our position as necessary in light of any new evidence or information.

Electric Vehicles

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans he has for the establishment of recharging points for electric and hybrid plug-in vehicles. [289336]

Mr. Khan: The Government have made available up to £30 million to support the roll out of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles in a small number of lead cities and regions in the UK. This scheme, Plugged In Places, is due to be launched later this year. In addition, the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Grant Scheme supports smaller proposals in the UK, with an overall budget of £1 million until the end of 2010.

In addition, a large number of people, who have off-street parking or garages, will be able to charge their electric vehicles at home and we expect a significant proportion of charging points to be installed by businesses and developers to supplement publicly supported infrastructure.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many charging points for plug-in and electric and hybrid vehicles he expects to be in use in each year from 2010 to 2015. [289337]

Mr. Khan: A forecast has not been made, at this time, of the total number of recharging points likely to be in use between the years 2010 and 2015. A large number of people already have access to off-street parking or garages and will be able to charge their electric vehicles at home and we would expect a significant proportion of new charging points to be installed by businesses and developers during these years.

In addition, the Government are making available up to £30 million, through the Plugged in Places scheme, to support a small number of lead cities and regions roll out electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Bids for this funding are due to be received next year, so it is not yet possible to estimate how many charging points it will deliver. The smaller Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Grant Programme has delivered 72 charging points to date, with further rounds of funding in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Helicopters

Mr. Doran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what consideration the Civil Aviation Authority gave to the approval in operational aircraft carriage terms of the use of wrist watch personal location beacons by passengers on helicopters serving the North Sea oil and gas industry *(a)* during the initial proof and concept trials carried out by BP and *(b)* subsequently. [289244]

Paul Clark: Wrist watch personal locator beacons, carried by passengers on helicopters flying in support of the exploration and production of oil and gas in the North sea, are non-approved equipment. There is no requirement in aviation legislation that requires the carriage of such equipment. The CAA gave due consideration to the potential safety implications of such carriage but has not approved any such carriage of electronic equipment.

In January 2009 the CAA held a meeting with helicopter operations and other stakeholders to discuss the concerns about the potential effects of inadvertent transmissions. These include radio interference on the emergency frequency, interference with aircraft systems, interference with other beacons, and the generation of false alarms. As a result the CAA established a Working Group to examine the issues in depth, and work by this group continues.

M25: Kent

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the potential levels of traffic which would be diverted from the A25 between Wrotham Heath and its junction with the A21 in the event that east-facing slip roads were constructed at Junction 5 on the M25. [290302]

Chris Mole: In considering the possible impacts from the provision of east-facing slip roads at Junction 5 of the M25, the Highways Agency modelled the potential changes to future traffic flows at Junction 5 of the M25, and on the surrounding road network using available data.

This assessment suggested that (with the east-facing slip roads in place) the traffic flows in 2015 on the A25 between the A21 and the A227 would increase eastbound by 6 per cent. and decrease westbound by 11 per cent. Traffic on the A25 between the A227 and Wrotham Heath would decrease by 8 per cent. eastbound and 15 per cent. westbound.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent consideration he has given to the construction of east-facing slip roads at junction 5 on the M25; what recent estimate he has made of the cost of the construction of such slip roads; and if he will make a statement. [290303]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport set out its investment programme for Highways Agency national roads until 2014 in Britain's Transport Infrastructure: Motorways and Trunk Roads (January 2009).

Proposals for improvements to Junction 5 of the M25 were not prioritised for implementation and were remitted to our longer-term transport planning process to establish the spending priorities for transport across modes after 2014.

As part of that process, we have assessed the scale of future challenges facing our national transport networks. This concluded that the challenges faced at Junction 5 of the M25 are not of a sufficiently high strategic national priority to be considered further in the current study work to 2014.

The provisional estimated cost of construction of east facing slip roads at M25 junction 5, based on the design developed in 2004, is £77 million (at 2008 prices). However, in the absence of further detailed engineering assessments of the proposal, this cost estimate should be treated as indicative only.

Manchester-Liverpool Railway Line

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what information his Department holds on the number of trains which operate on the Manchester to Liverpool railway line each week; [291453]

(2) what information his Department holds on the number of passengers who use the Manchester to Liverpool railway line; [291454]

(3) what information his Department holds on the number of *(a)* passengers who use and *(b)* trains which operate on the Preston to Manchester railway line each week. [291456]

Chris Mole: The number of trains which operate between Manchester and Liverpool via Newton-le-Willows are shown in the following table.

Manchester-Liverpool via Newton-le-Willows

	Number
Monday to Friday	36
Saturday	37
Sunday	31

The number of trains which operate between Preston and Manchester each day are shown in the following table.

Preston to Manchester

	Number
Monday to Friday	62
Saturday	62
Sunday	39

Only a minority of these services begin at Preston; most commence or terminate at variety of stations in Lancashire and Cumbria off the electrified network.

More detailed information can be found on-line using the National Rail website, or by consulting timetables on the Network Rail website, at the following links:

Train Planner:

http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/

Table 90 (Manchester to Liverpool via Newton-le-Willows):

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browse%20documents/eNRT/May09/timetables/Table90.pdf

Table 82 (Preston to Manchester):

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browse%20documents/eNRT/May09/timetables/Table82.pdf

While the Department for Transport is able to access data from train operating companies on passenger numbers, such information is provided to us in commercial confidence.

Following electrification of the Chat Moss line between Manchester and Liverpool via Newton-le-Willows by 2013, all Manchester-Scotland services will be converted to electric train operation. Instead of running on the unelectrified route via Bolton and Preston, as they do at present, this will mean that nine trains per weekday will run west from Manchester on the newly-electrified Chat Moss route and connect with the electrified West Coast Main Line at Newton-le-Willows.

It is also anticipated, following Chat Moss electrification, that the number of Manchester-Liverpool services operating via this route will be increased, without reducing the number of trains running between Manchester and Liverpool via Warrington Central.

Electrification of the Chat Moss line will secure synergies with other planned upgrades, including infrastructure improvements which will raise the maximum line speed from 75 mph to 90 mph and thereby cut the Manchester-Liverpool journey time from 44 minutes to a target of 30 minutes.

Manchester-Preston Railway Line

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations his Department has received on the electrification of the Preston to Manchester railway line; and if he will make a statement. [291455]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has received two representations on electrification of the Preston to Manchester railway line. The Government are looking intensively at the costs and benefits of further electrification, including on this line.

Motor Vehicles: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles less polluting heavy goods vehicles and Euro emissions standards *(a)* 0, *(b)* I, *(c)* II, *(d)* III, *(e)* IV and *(f)* V vehicles travelled in the UK in 2008. [290301]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not hold these data. However, we have the following estimates on the proportion of the heavy goods vehicle fleet that met each Euro Standard in 2008. This was provided as part of a research project conducted by Transport Research Laboratory for the Department, to provide updated input to UK air quality emissions inventory modelling:

Percentage of the fleet at each Euro Standard (2008)

Percentage

	Pre Euro	*Euro I*	*Euro II*	*Euro III*	*Euro IV*	*Euro V*
Rigids	—	2.94	20.99	48.70	27.36	—
Artics	—	1.71	13.94	52.45	31.90	—

The UK heavy-duty vehicle fleet, in 2008, consisted of 316,800 rigid vehicles and 119,500 articulated vehicles. The average annual distance travelled was 28,500 miles for rigid vehicles, and 73,000 miles for articulated vehicles. Within these averages, however, data from road freight surveys suggest there is significant variation with vehicle age, with newer vehicles in general having higher annual mileages than older ones. Consequently the contribution of vehicles at lower Euro standards to total mileage will be lower than the fleet proportions alone would suggest.

In addition to the Euro standards, EU emissions directives also include a voluntary "Environmentally Enhanced Vehicle" standard, which in fact is very similar to the Euro V standard. We are unable to provide specific data relating to vehicles in this emissions class, but we believe that they form only a very small proportion of the vehicle fleet.

Motor Vehicles: Safety Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the merits of installing a seat belt reminder system in all new motor vehicles sold; and if he will make a statement; [289575]

(2) what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the effects of seat belt reminder systems on seat belt wearing rates; and if he will make a statement. [289580]

Paul Clark: The last UK seat belt wearing survey in 2008 recorded 95 per cent. of drivers and 93 per cent. of front seat passengers wore seat belts in passenger cars. Published research has indicated that seat belt reminders can have a positive effect on seat belt wearing rates. The Department for Transport has not commissioned and has no plans to commission further research on the merits of installing a seat belt reminder system in all new vehicles sold.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with the motor industry on the installation of a seat belt reminder system in all new motor vehicles sold; and if he will make a statement; [289576]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the introduction of seat belt reminders in new vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [289583]

Paul Clark: The motor industry was partner to detailed negotiations that led to requirements within regulations made under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for seat belt reminders to be fitted to the driver's seat in passenger cars. The European Commission has brought forward proposals to adopt these requirements into Community law as part of their regulatory simplification process and the Department for Transport will be meeting with Commission officials later this month.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of installing a seat belt reminder system in the front seats of motor vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [289577]

Paul Clark: Currently, many new cars are equipped with seat belt reminders for their front seats on a voluntary basis. We have not estimated the costs of this installation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department last undertook a review of the evidence relating to the effectiveness of seat belts in reducing deaths and injury that drew on *(a)* UK and *(b)* international research; and if he will make a statement. [289578]

Paul Clark: The most recent report the Department has produced on the effectiveness of wearing seat belts was published in November 2008, Road Safety Research Report 98—"Strapping Yarns: Why People Do and Do Not Wear Seat Belts".

This is available from:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme5/reportno98.pdf

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to allow persons guilty of an offence under section 14(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, in lieu of a fine, to attend a driving safety course paid for by the offender that includes instruction on the benefits of wearing seat belts; and if he will make a statement. [289579]

Paul Clark: The decision to offer any driving safety course as an alternative to prosecution or a fixed penalty notice is entirely a matter for the police where they feel it is the most productive option. There is nothing to prevent the police offering courses in respect of the benefits of using seat belts.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the seat belt wearing rate has been in each province in Northern Ireland *(a)* in the last period for which figures are available and *(b)* in each month since 2005. [289582]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. This is now a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to provide incentives to consumers to purchase cars fitted with a seat belt reminder system; and if he will make a statement. [289584]

Paul Clark: There are no plans to do so.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with motor insurers on insurance premiums for drivers of vehicles fitted with a seat belt reminder system; and if he will make a statement. [289620]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport had no discussions with motor insurers on insurance premiums for drivers of vehicles fitted with a seat belt reminder system.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what records his Department has on the percentage of cars sold which were fitted with a seat belt reminder system in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [289702]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not collect this information.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the MOT test in identifying vehicles which may be dangerous due to blacking out or tinting of windows. [291634]

Paul Clark: The MOT test does not include a check of the level of light transmittance through tinted vehicle windows. To include this item in the MOT test would require all 19,000 MOT test stations to incur expenditure on special test equipment. This could involve a cost of around £10 million and there would be additional costs associated with calibrating and maintaining the equipment. Given that relatively few vehicles appear to have excessively tinted front windows we consider that the issue is best addressed through enforcement at the roadside.

Motorcycles: Accidents

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 766-8W, on motorcycles: accidents, how many moped riders aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19 and *(e)* 20 years were (i) injured and (ii) killed in road traffic accidents in (A) the London borough of Wandsworth, (B) London and (C) England in 2008. [290164]

Paul Clark: The number of (i) injured casualties and (ii) fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents for moped riders aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19 and *(e)* 20 years-old in (A) London borough of Wandsworth, (B) London and (C) England in 2008 is given in the table:

Reported number of injured and fatal casualties by age of moped riders[1] in London borough of Wandsworth, Greater London, and England: 2008

		Number of casualties from injury accidents reported to the police					
		London borough of Wandsworth[2]		*Greater London[2]*		*England*	
	Age	*Injured*	*Killed*	*Injured*	*Killed*	*Injured*	*Killed*
2008	16	2	0	58	0	1,401	3
	17	1	0	39	0	676	7
	18	1	0	15	0	213	1
	19	2	0	18	0	108	0
	20	0	0	17	0	89	0

[1] Motorcycles with engine size of 50cc or less.
[2] *Source:*
Transport for London.

Motorcycles: Driving Tests

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many moped riders aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19 and *(e)* 20 years have passed the practical moped test (i) nationally, (ii) in Wandsworth and (iii) in London in each of the last five years. [290165]

Paul Clark: The information sought is as follows:

Nationally

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
16	7	6	7	5	4	29
17	2	1	2	0	1	6
18	2	0	0	1	1	4
20	0	2	0	0	0	2
Total	11	9	9	6	6	41

Greater London

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
16	0	0	2	1	0	3
18	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	0	0	2	2	1	5

The Driving Standards Agency has no test centre at Wandsworth.

Motorcycles: Licensing

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many moped riders aged *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19 and *(e)* 20 years have been licensed to drive on public roads (i) nationally, (ii) in Wandsworth and (iii) in London in each of the last five years. [290166]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the number of moped drivers aged 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 who were licensed to drive on public roads in Great Britain, London and Wandsworth.

	Age	*GB*	*London*	*Wandsworth*
2004	16	40,367	2,877	107
	17	302,911	13,876	656
	18	424,283	21,664	1,119
	19	477,656	26,651	1,440
	20	496,963	30,347	1,807
2005	16	45,505	3,197	116
	17	347,531	15,408	785

	Age	GB	London	Wandsworth
	18	480,744	23,802	1,228
	19	511,244	28,272	1,466
	20	537,460	32,082	1,744
2006	16	52,788	3,535	124
	17	383,782	17,206	869
	18	528,231	26,196	1,331
	19	563,321	30,665	1,546
	20	570,748	33,752	1,721
2007	16	66,453	4,263	188
	17	430,757	19,581	1,017
	18	552,488	28,307	1,487
	19	601,240	32,925	1,705
	20	613,607	35,861	1,804
2008	16	66,488	3,806	155
	17	436,322	18,883	1,040
	18	580,739	29,585	1,557
	19	610,565	33,945	1,777
	20	640,573	37,255	1,917

National Express East Coast

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of the costs of refranchising of east coast mainline railway services will be met by *(a)* National Express and *(b)* his Department. [289616]

Chris Mole: The full cost of the refranchising of the east coast mainline railway will be met by the National Express east coast performance bond.

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of refranchising the east coast mainline railway service. [289617]

Chris Mole: Should National Express relinquish the franchise prior to the end of its full term, the costs of re-franchising are currently estimated to be £1.2 million.

These costs will be recoverable from a performance bond that will fall due under the current franchise agreement.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 757W, on National Express East Coast, from which budgets the budget cover is drawn. [289813]

Chris Mole: Budget cover for the passenger railway is one of several programmes included in section M—Railways of the Department for Transport's Parliamentary Supply Estimates, which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/13403_me07_dft_1st.pdf

Northern Rail

Mr. Leech: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many passenger journeys have been made on Northern Rail services departing from each conurbation served by Northern Rail in each of the last five years; and what the equivalent figures are for each rail operator serving London and the South East. [289261]

Chris Mole: Statistics on the total number of passenger journeys made by each Train Operating Company (TOC) are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in their National Rail Trends Yearbook publication, which is available in the House Libraries, or from the ORR website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his assessment is of the effect that allocation of vehicles to Northern Rail from the high level output specification will have on the level of carbon dioxide emissions of the Northern Rail fleet. [289900]

Chris Mole: In July, the Department for Transport announced a major new electrification programme which radically affects the requirements for train rolling stock over the next decade. In particular, there will be far less need for diesel trains and a greater requirement for electric trains which cause significantly lower levels of carbon dioxide emissions.

The Department will publish a new rolling stock plan in the autumn, taking account of these changed circumstances. It will not be possible to provide an assessment of the impact of additional rolling stock on carbon dioxide emissions until allocations are finalised and contracted.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the age profile is of the *(a)* Northern Rail fleet and *(b)* national rail fleet; and what the age profile of the Northern Rail fleet will be when it has received its allocation of high level output specification vehicles. [289901]

Chris Mole: The average age profile of the Northern fleet and National fleet respectively as of April 2009 is 20.03 years and 18.42 years. The average age of the Northern fleet when it has received its allocation of high level output specification vehicles will depend on the outcome of discussions on additional capacity that are currently taking place with Northern.

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to his Department's response to the independent strategic review into possible extensions to the Blue Badge scheme *(a)* what progress has been made in implementing a non-Blue Badge option to allow people with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) immediate access to parking facilities without incurring penalties and *(b)* what discussions he has had with the Minister for Disabled People on parking provision for people with IBD. [292142]

Mr. Khan: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for Transport's response to the independent strategic review of the Blue Badge scheme

set out its preliminary views and formed part of the consultation package on the Comprehensive Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) Reform Strategy (England). The final Strategy, which was published in October 2008, sets out our priorities for action on improving the scheme. This does not include any commitments in respect of people who do not qualify for the scheme, such as those people with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). In terms of improving the provision of public toilets, you will be aware of the Government's Strategic Guide "Improving Public Access to Better Quality Toilets" which sets out how central Government, working in partnership with local authorities, the private sector, and communities, can promote better public access to toilets.

(b) None.

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pensioners have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received free (i) bus and (ii) rail passes in (A) Bolton and (B) Greater Manchester since the scheme was introduced. [291644]

Mr. Khan: Bolton is part of the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE), which is responsible for administering concessionary travel, including the issuing of passes, in the Greater Manchester area. The Department for Transport does not maintain records of how many pensioners have applied for passes or how many passes individual authorities have issued.

The last information held by the Department was that as of 4 March 2009, the GMPTE scheme had issued 453,000 concessionary passes. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

The concessionary pass is valid for travel on local buses anywhere in England and in Greater Manchester the same pass can also be used on local trains and trams. This is not the case in all local authorities but there is a separate national scheme that gives older people discounted travel on rail—the Senior Railcard, which costs £26 per year and gives people aged 60 and over one-third off rail travel across the UK.

Railways

Ian Stewart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of progress in the implementation of initiatives to reduce the cost base of the rail network in the north in respect of *(a)* early electrification, *(b)* the tram-train trial and *(c)* measures to replace older diesel rolling stock. [289352]

Chris Mole: On 23 July the Government announced a major £1.1 billion programme of rail electrification for the Great Western Main Line from London to Swansea and the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willows.

Liverpool-Manchester electrification will enable the diesel trains currently operating there to be transferred onto other routes, delivering much needed additional capacity. Many services will be able to operate as six-carriage trains instead of three-carriage trains today. It will also provide an electrified link to the West Coast Main Line, allowing the operation of electric train services from Manchester to Scotland. As a result, the previously planned procurement by the Government of new diesel trains has now been superseded. The Government will publish a new rolling stock plan this autumn, taking account of these changed circumstances.

On 15 September 2009, we announced that the Yorkshire Tram Train Trail was being re-phased with a view to the early introduction of trams between Rotherham and Sheffield using both the Sheffield Supertram Network and Network Rail infrastructure. This project involves South Yorkshire PTE, Network Rail, Northern Trains and the Department for Transport and all partners are working hard to get an early introduction of through trams along the route to demonstrate the benefits of combining heavy and light rail infrastructure.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to paragraph 16 of the High Level Output Specification Plan Update of July 2008, if he will publish an updated version of the table showing the proposed plan to indicate *(a)* with which operators, and for how many additional charges contracts have been agreed and *(b)* with which operators, and for how many additional rail charges, negotiations are still taking place, and what stage these negotiations have reached. [289489]

Chris Mole: On 23 July, the Government announced a programme of electrification, including the Great Western Main Line from London to Swansea and the route from Liverpool to Manchester via Newton-le-Willows. This has radically affected future rolling stock requirements, as there will be far less need for diesel trains. A new rolling stock plan will be published in the autumn setting out a revised strategy for rolling stock requirements.

To date the Department for Transport has procured 550 additional vehicles for the following routes: West Coast, Chiltern, London Midland, First Capital Connect, Southeastern, South Central, and National Express East Anglia.

Railways: Electrification

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) pursuant to page 17 of Building Britain's future, when he expects to bring forward plans for rail electrification; [289814]

(2) pursuant to the Prime Minister's Oral Statement of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 22, on Building Britain's future, when he intends to set out his plans to advance the electrification of transport. [290173]

Chris Mole: On 23 July the Government announced the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea, and of the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willows. Full details are contained in the document "Britain's Transport Infrastructure: Rail Electrification," available online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 762, on transport: finance, whether Network Rail will be reimbursed for its work electrifying the railway during the 2009 to 2014 spending review period. [290161]

Chris Mole: As with other rail investments, the cost of electrification will be funded by Network Rail and supported by the Government.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 762, on transport: finance, whether Network Rail will undertake the work of electrifying the railways during the 2009 to 2014 spending review period. [290162]

Chris Mole: On 23 July the Government announced the electrification of the Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea, and of the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willows.

On the Great Western Main Line, electrification between London and Bristol will be complete by 2016, and between London and Swansea by 2017. Some of this work will take place during the 2009 to 2014 spending review period.

On the Liverpool-Manchester line, electrification will be complete by 2013. All of this work will take place during the 2009 to 2014 spending review period.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any train operating companies have sought a derogation to increase rail fares in 2010 above the limits allowed in their franchise agreements. [291722]

Chris Mole: The only derogations sought so far for the January 2010 round have been related to the fares structure supporting the introduction of Pay As You Go (PAYG) in London.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in what circumstances his Department would *(a)* hold a full consultation process before refranchising and *(b)* use the specification on which the previous franchise had been based in cases where a train operating company surrender a franchise prematurely. [289700]

Chris Mole: It is the Department for Transport's established practice to carry out a public consultation exercise, in line with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation, before finalising the specification for each new franchise, including where a franchise has been surrendered prematurely.

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which existing rail franchises he expects to return a net premium to his Department by the end of the franchise period, taking into account all anticipated revenue support payments. [289711]

Chris Mole: The existing rail franchises that are contracted to return a premium to the Department for Transport were set out in my answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 758W. The Department's forecasts of any additional receipts or payments under the revenue sharing arrangements in those franchises are commercially confidential.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has allocated to encouraging use of railways to carry freight in 2009-10. [291961]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport provides two types of grants to encourage modal shift from road to rail and water:

Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) which helps to offset the capital costs of rail or water freight handling facilities.

Rail Environmental Benefit Procurement Scheme (REPS) which assists companies with the operating costs associated with running rail freight transport instead of road where rail is more expensive than road.

Funding for both is provided by the multi-modal Sustainable Distribution Fund (SDF). The total SDF budget for 2009-10 is £30.4 million, of which £7 million is capital funding.

In addition to grants, the Government have in the last two years announced record levels of rail freight investment to support continued growth including £200 million towards the development of a Strategic Rail Freight Network and over £200 million of funding towards the provision of infrastructure enhancement for freight through the Productivity Transport Innovation Fund.

Railways: Greater Manchester

Ian Stewart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons services on some routes into Greater Manchester are to be withdrawn; and if he will make a statement. [289351]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is not aware of any plans to withdraw rail services on any routes into Greater Manchester.

With effect from 3 October 2009, services were withdrawn on the Oldham Loop route within Greater Manchester in order to facilitate the conversion of the route to Metrolink tram operation, due to commence in October 2011. The conversion represents a multi-party investment by local and national stakeholders of around £540 million, of which £240 million is being provided by central Government.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assumptions on economic growth in Greater Manchester his Department used in determining the number of additional rail carriages to be allocated to rail operators serving Greater Manchester. [289488]

Chris Mole: The High Level Output Specification of July 2007 assumed a compound annual growth rate in peak passenger demand on regional services of 2.3 per cent. from 2006 to 2017.

Railways: Kingston upon Hull

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what percentage of train services serving Hull have been *(a)* delayed and *(b)* cancelled in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [290050]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. Statistical information such as this can be found on the Office of Rail Regulation website

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the new East Coast Main Line franchise will be required to provide rail services to Hull; and if he will make a statement. [290051]

Chris Mole: Prior to the letting of a new franchise on the East Coast Main Line, the Government will consult on the new specification, including service levels and patterns. It is likely that the existing level of services provided by the franchised operator on the East Coast Main Line will form the basis of the draft specification.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many rail passengers made at least one journey between Hull and London in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [290052]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Rail journey statistics are published on the website of the Office of Rail Regulation at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Railways: West Yorkshire

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing a high-speed rail service between Leeds and Manchester via Huddersfield. [291797]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not carried out any work to estimate the cost of introducing a high speed rail service between Manchester and Leeds via Huddersfield.

High Speed Two has been asked to help consider the case for high speed rail services from London to Scotland and, as a first stage, the company will report by the end of this year with a detailed proposal for a new line between London and the west midlands. High Speed Two will also provide advice on the potential development of a high speed line beyond the west midlands, including the potential for the new line to extend to the conurbations of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, the north-east and Scotland.

Road Signs and Markings: Tourism

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research his Department undertook before the decision to change its policy on the number of road signs indicating directions to sporting and cultural tourist venues; and what evaluation of the effect of the policy on traffic impact has been undertaken. [292514]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not have a policy on the number of traffic signs, including brown signs that direct visitors to their intended tourist destination. Although the Highways Agency's policy guidance documents on the use of tourist signing encourage highway authorities to consider the potential effects, no recommendation is made in relation to the number of signs.

Therefore no such research or evaluation has been undertaken.

The guidance documents TD52/04 (for the Highways Agency's all purpose and motorway trunk roads in England), and TA 94/04 (for local authorities in England on their local road network) can be found via the Highways Agencies website at:

http://www.highways.gov.uk/business/1162.aspx

Road Traffic Control

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when it was decided to require a 1.2 metre safety zone between a working area in respect of road maintenance and live traffic flow; what the evidential basis was for that decision; and if he will make a statement. [292158]

Mr. Khan: The 1.2 metre sideways clearance for roads with speed limits of 50 miles per hour and over has proved to be a practical and effective minimum requirement for many years, at least since 1965. The Department has no record of how the dimension was originally decided. Although the Traffic Signs Manual and the Safety Code of Practice have been reviewed, this distance has not been challenged by traffic management experts.

For roads with a lower speed limit, the size of the safety zone is reduced. The safety zone is only required when operatives are on site and it can be reduced when a site is unoccupied.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* roadworkers, *(b)* pedestrians and *(c)* cyclists were (i) injured and (ii) killed on single carriageway roads where road maintenance or other road works were being undertaken, in each highway authority in each year since 1997. [292157]

Paul Clark: Data for roadworkers are not available but since 2005 the police have recorded whether pedestrians were injured in the course of 'on the road' work, which includes other workers such as those involved in traffic control, postal work and other delivery services as well as road maintenance, although this will only have been reported if it was immediately apparent to the reporting police officer.

A table showing pedestrians (i) injured and (ii) killed while in the course of work on single carriageway roads at sites where road works were being undertaken, in each highway authority in each year since 2005 has been deposited in the Libraries.

Tables showing how many *(b)* pedestrians and *(c)* cyclists were (i) injured and (ii) killed on single carriageway roads at sites where road works were being undertaken, in each highway authority in each year since 1997 have also been deposited.

Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has plans to improve road links to the Robin Hood Airport in Doncaster. [289497]

Mr. Khan: The Yorkshire and Humber Region's advice on funding priorities, submitted in February included a scheme, promoted by Doncaster Metropolitan borough council, to improve road links to the Robin Hood airport in Doncaster.

The Department for Transport responded to the advice on 22 July 2009. It is now for Doncaster to submit a major scheme business case for the scheme to the Department at the appropriate time.

Rolling Stock

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport by what date he expects the 1,300 additional rail carriages announced in the 2007 Rail White Paper to be in operation. [289495]

Chris Mole: On 23 July the Government announced a major £1.1 billion programme of rail electrification. The Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea will be electrified by 2017, and the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willow will be electrified by 2013.

This programme of electrification means that there will now be far less need for diesel trains and a greater requirement for electric trains. The Government will publish a new rolling stock plan this autumn, taking account of these changes circumstances and setting out a revised strategy.

Rolling Stock: Expenditure

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much money has been spent on new rolling stock in each of the last five years; and how much money has been spent on rolling stock for *(a)* Northern Rail and *(b)* each of the commuter rail operators serving London and the South East. [289494]

Chris Mole: The following table sets out the numbers and approximate value of the rolling stock for commuter operators serving London and the south-east.

Train operator	*Class*	*Ordered*	*Number of vehicles*	*Approximate value (£ million)*
Chiltern Railway	168/2	May 2005	6	7.5
SET	395	June 2005	174	245
South West Trains	450	February 2006	68	75
TfL	378	August 2006	152	180
Southern	377/5	May 2007	48	60
London Midland	350/2	August 2007	148	190
London Midland	139	November 2007	2	0.8
TfL	378	November 2007	36	45
London Midland	172	December 2007	69	90
Chiltern Railway	172	January 2008	8	11
TfL	172	January 2008	16	23
Southern	377/5	March 2008	44	55
TfL	378	April 2008	28	34
NXEA	379	April 2009	120	168

There has been no new rolling stock procured by Northern Rail in the last five years, however Trans Pennine Express introduced a new fleet of class 185 diesel multiple units which entered service in 2005-06.

Train operator	*Class*	*Ordered*	*Number of vehicles*	*Approximate value (£ million)*
TPE	185	September 2003	153	250

Shipping: Smoking

David Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department plans to publish proposals for the regulation of smoking on *(a)* sea-going and *(b)* inland waterway vessels. [289174]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport published a consultation exercise on draft merchant shipping (prohibition of smoking on ships) regulations on 9 July. The consultation closed on 9 October.

South London Railway Line

Ms Barlow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what information his Department holds on the number of passengers starting their journeys from *(a)* Brighton and *(b)* Hove station who have used the South London Line in the last six months; [291677]

(2) how many passengers starting their journey from Aldrington Station have used the South London Line in the last six months. [291732]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not have access to the specific information the hon. Lady requires. However, the number of journeys recorded via the rail industry Lennon ticketing system between Brighton, Hove and Aldrington stations and stations on the South London Line in the year 2008-09 was:

Brighton: 13,685
Hove: 2,348
Aldrington: 48

It is not possible to define whether all these passengers used the South London Line as other journey options exist (i.e. via the East Dulwich route). zonal travel cards are also not included in this figure as, by definition, they do not have a prescribed destination.

The introduction of East London line services to Clapham Junction will increase accessibility to South London line destinations for passengers from the South Coast.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many speed cameras are operational on roads in Bolton. [291643]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Since 1 April 2007 the deployment of safety cameras has been the responsibility of individual local partnerships. The number of cameras in operation on roads in Bolton will therefore be a matter for the Greater Manchester road safety partnership.

Swindon-Kemble Railway Line

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made on the re-doubling of the railway line between Kemble and Swindon. [292429]

Chris Mole: Network Rail has been funded by the Department for Transport, the South West Region and the National Assembly for Wales to undertake a comprehensive engineering study of the re-doubling proposal. The South West Region has been asked by Ministers to consider proposals that would fully fund the scheme and allow re-doubling work to start in 2010.

Swine Flu

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with which transport *(a)* authorities and advisory organisations, *(b)* companies and *(c)* trade unions his Department has had recent discussions on swine influenza; and when those discussions took place. [290017]

Paul Clark: We have maintained regular contact with a wide range of transport operators and associations since the outbreak was first notified. The Department for Transport has not discussed the issue with the trade unions. It is for individual companies to discuss any issues on this subject with their relevant trade unions.

Tolls

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the Government's plans are to introduce a vehicle tracking and national road pricing scheme; what the most recent estimate is of the cost of such a scheme; what assessment he has made of the effects of such a scheme on *(a)* the environment and *(b)* civil liberties; and what the Government's policy is on the use of income from road pricing to fund public transport provision. [291558]

Mr. Khan: The Government will not proceed with a national road user charging scheme in the next Parliament.

However, road congestion remains a serious long-term problem and it would be irresponsible not to explore the potential of managing demand to help tackle congestion in the future.

Therefore, the Government remain committed to investigating thoroughly a wide range of policies both to reduce congestion and to improve journey-time reliability for all road users.

Given the complexity of the issues involved, the rapid pace of technological change and the number of potential variables, it is not feasible to give any cost and benefit estimates at this stage.

The Government do not generally hypothecate revenues, as to do so can be inefficient.

Transport Innovation Fund

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to his Department's publication, Supporting the Development of TIF packages, published on 4 March 2009, how much funding his Department plans to allocate to the Transport Innovation Fund in each year to 2018-19. [290158]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport announced on 4 March 2008 revised arrangements to support the development of congestion Transport Innovation Fund packages by local authorities who were considering bidding for funding to implement a package of measures to tackle congestion through demand management and investment in public transport in their area. The announcement noted our willingness to provide up to £200 million a year for such schemes up to 2018-19. Allocations would, however, depend on the scale and quality of proposals received. The Department's plans for spending beyond 2010-11 will be set as part of the usual cross departmental spending review process.

Transport: Infrastructure

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which major transport infrastructure projects in each *(a)* Government region and *(b)* local authority area have been approved by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [290053]

Mr. Khan: I have placed tables in the Library of the House which provide information on major transport infrastructure projects, costing over £5 million, in each *(a)* Government region and *(b)* local authority area where applicable that have been approved by the Department for Transport in each of the last five years.

Tyne and Wear Metro

Mr. Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what support his Department is planning to provide for the extension of the Tyne and Wear Metro from South Northumberland Park Metro station to Newsham in Blyth Valley; and if he will make a statement. [289373]

Mr. Khan: It would be for Nexus and Northumberland county council to consider whether the reopening of the railway line from Northumberland Park to Newsham either as an extension of the Metro or as a heavy rail line would be the best way to meet local and regional transport needs and to seek the necessary funding, for example through the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA).

CABINET OFFICE

National Survey of Third Sector Organisations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which body won the contract for the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations with the OGCbuying.solutions reference project 17576; what the monetary value of the contract is; and when the results of the survey will be published. [290141]

Angela E. Smith: The National Survey of Third Sector Organisations was let by competitive tender in two lots. Lot A was to provide a sample frame for the survey. Lot B was to conduct a survey of third sector organisations on that sample frame, conduct analysis and publish results.

Lot A was won by a consortium led by BMG Research, and Lot B was won by Ipsos MORI. The value of these contracts is commercially confidential and is not published to protect the commercial interests of the Cabinet Office in tendering similar work on a competitive basis.

A copy of the headline results of the survey have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The detailed results, together with analysis, are available at:

www.nstso.com

10 Downing Street

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the seating plan for the open plan office in the Downing Street office complex. [290133]

Angela E. Smith: I have nothing further to add to the answer my predecessor gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1180W.

10 Downing Street: Manpower

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff work in the 10 Downing Street Correspondence Unit. [289855]

Angela E. Smith: As at 1 April 2009, 20 staff were employed in the Direct Communications Unit.

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the works in 10 Downing Street under Westminster city council planning application reference 09/00619/LBC have been completed. [287260]

Angela E. Smith: No. Works are currently under way.

Average Earnings

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the rate of average earnings growth was in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire constituency, *(b)* each local authority area in the East of England and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [289299]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the rate of average earnings growth was in (a) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (b) each local authority area in the East of England and (c) England in each of the last 10 years. (289299)

ONS's primary indicator of average earnings growth is the Average Earnings Index. As this does not produce regional estimates, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings has been used (ASHE). The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of information on the levels of earnings in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PA YE) schemes.

The sample sizes for more detailed geographies can be small and this affects the quality of the resulting estimates, which are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

I attach a table showing the annual percentage change in median gross weekly earnings for the specified geographies for full-time and part-time employees in each year since 1998.

Annual percentage change of median gross weekly pay—for full-time employee jobs[1]

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	4.4	2.5	4.8	4.7	3.9	3.5	4.7	2.6	3.7	3.1	4.2
North West Cambridgeshire	5.5	4.1	-2.1	10.7	10.0	-10.5	6.5	5.3	-1.8	5.4	4.1
East of England	4.3	3.3	2.8	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.9	2.1	3.7	2.2	3.9
Luton UA	2.4	3.8	-0.3	3.2	10.8	0.2	-0.5	15.2	0.8	5.1	2.7
Peterborough UA	7.5	1.3	-1.2	7.1	6.7	3.0	3.6	2.0	6.2	4.5	2.1
Southend-on-Sea UA	-2.9	8.4	-1.8	4.9	12.4	-8.6	3.1	2.1	10.2	-3.6	8.8
Thurrock UA	-1.2	7.8	1.3	1.5	3.5	3.1	9.9	-3.3	6.8	-3.0	6.5
Mid Bedfordshire	0.1	3.3	4.3	3.9	6.3	13.1	-4.9	-0.6	5.1	6.4	-4.6
North Bedfordshire	6.6	0.7	6.8	-3.1	10.8	1.7	2.5	6.7	4.8	-1.6	6.0
South Bedfordshire	5.7	0.4	9.1	2.1	4.9	-2.1	1.8	0.2	12.1	-3.7	0.9
Cambridge	-4.4	5.9	7.6	6.8	0.3	6.5	8.1	-0.3	0.9	3.7	4.7
East Cambridgeshire	-13.0	-2.1	22.3	6.1	6.0	16.0	0.5	-1.3	0.1	12.6	-8.3
Fenland	7.6	4.6	-3.2	-5.0	-0.8	13.5	7.9	0.2	5.6	2.0	-4.3
Huntingdonshire	5.6	4.5	3.1	7.6	-1.0	8.4	5.5	3.1	-3.7	6.6	2.7
South Cambridgeshire	4.1	6.5	0.0	10.3	6.1	5.8	10.6	-4.1	10.5	-2.6	7.4
Basildon	2.1	6.9	13.5	5.6	-11.2	15.1	-1.3	2.4	1.6	6.0	-4.3

Annual percentage change of median gross weekly pay—for full-time employee jobs[1]

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Braintree	2.3	5.1	6.5	3.5	11.8	0.2	7.9	15.1	-4.9	5.4	-5.6
Brentwood	9.4	8.0	-8.2	13.2	24.0	1.2	2.5	0.5	1.7	-2.2	9.5
Castle Point	23.7	-11.5	6.8	9.1	-19.9	17.0	-0.8	13.2	6.2	-1.0	13.0
Chelmsford	1.0	1.7	10.7	-2.7	8.2	-3.2	0.9	12.1	-2.7	6.1	3.6
Colchester	5.9	1.4	7.4	7.7	-2.5	3.8	7.3	5.3	4.6	-1.5	1.0
Epping Forest	11.2	4.2	6.5	1.6	-1.5	4.4	13.5	-0.1	6.5	4.4	9.1
Harlow	-4.5	7.0	6.3	6.8	-3.0	9.1	0.1	2.3	3.7	24.8	3.9
Maldon	1.8	10.0	2.2	25.5	-8.6	3.7	5.3	-8.9	-0.7	8.0	-6.2
Rochford	1.3	11.3	2.4	2.6	-1.0	6.8	1.6	3.5	10.5	3.3	-2.3
Tendring	6.4	2.6	-4.6	-1.4	16.7	13.9	-1.4	-1.0	0.1	-5.5	6.8
Uttlesford	8.3	11.2	-10.7	19.5	-4.5	9.5	-4.1	9.0	1.9	-0.5	7.6
Broxbourne	-4.5	4.5	0.3	1.9	1.3	12.4	1.8	5.6	1.3	-2.3	12.1
Dacorum	5.4	-0.0	5.7	12.2	5.3	1.7	-0.1	0.8	4.9	7.3	-2.1
East Hertfordshire	6.8	3.6	5.4	13.7	3.0	1.4	3.8	2.3	-3.6	0.0	4.1
Hertsmere	9.6	3.9	0.3	1.5	9.8	-0.6	18.5	-0.0	4.5	9.3	-0.8
North Hertfordshire	11.2	0.0	3.7	8.9	2.1	5.8	5.0	1.0	1.7	3.8	6.2
St. Albans	2.2	8.3	-1.4	6.7	9.6	2.8	2.1	0.4	7.1	-2.5	8.0
Stevenage	22.3	-0.8	-8.0	10.0	0.1	18.0	-7.8	8.0	10.8	-6.8	1.2
Three Rivers	24.4	2.0	-5.6	14.7	8.2	9.2	0.9	9.5	3.6	-2.8	-7.7
Watford	3.4	0.2	5.3	2.4	-4.1	3.7	5.1	10.8	-0.9	-9.4	18.6
Welwyn Hatfield	9.3	1.5	7.8	5.5	7.3	3.2	7.9	9.3	-7.6	8.1	2.0
Breckland	3.9	4.1	6.8	2.1	-0.3	0.8	10.4	6.8	-10.9	0.8	6.2
Broadland	7.6	8.4	-2.8	7.8	-0.2	11.5	3.9	-7.9	8.7	1.6	7.0
Great Yarmouth	2.1	14.9	-3.0	5.8	5.6	2.1	2.5	6.7	1.6	9.9	0.4
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	-2.8	6.1	3.8	4.8	0.1	1.7	-1.2	5.8	4.2	9.1	4.8
North Norfolk	6.5	-3.7	5.0	9.9	9.5	7.5	-6.6	-2.8	-3.1	5.8	1.1
Norwich	4.5	3.0	4.4	0.8	1.1	2.6	1.8	4.8	8.6	0.1	-0.5
South Norfolk	2.3	19.6	9.0	-0.8	0.4	-1.3	10.6	11.1	-7.2	-2.6	11.8
Babergh	6.0	2.7	3.3	5.2	8.0	-1.6	-0.9	2.1	4.7	9.4	-3.0
Forest Heath	9.7	-0.3	14.3	6.0	0.8	11.9	5.0	-12.3	1.9	8.8	7.0
Ipswich	2.1	-0.2	11.4	6.7	0.2	2.1	5.2	-0.4	15.5	1.2	11.4
Mid Suffolk	5.3	3.1	-14.3	29.4	-1.5	8.5	2.0	-1.3	6.7	-0.6	5.2
St. Edmundsbury	1.1	-0.8	7.0	9.5	-3.4	4.7	3.1	8.4	1.7	-0.7	8.9
Suffolk Coastal	3.4	0.1	2.3	5.9	8.2	5.6	2.0	0.6	6.7	6.2	2.3
Waveney	-8.5	12.7	5.2	5.4	1.9	9.3	1.9	-0.7	1.9	4.0	7.4

Annual percentage change of median gross weekly pay—for part-time employee jobs[1]

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	4.1	5.1	3.9	3.5	5.2	6.2	6.6	1.4	4.1	4.2	1.7
North West Cambridgeshire	x	x	x	31.2	x	x	9.1	-8.0	4.4	-0.6	26.8
East of England	4.3	7.3	2.8	5.6	3.0	3.8	9.4	-1.0	7.2	1.8	3.0
Luton UA	-4.2	22.3	-10.0	10.9	7.5	-1.5	2.8	-2.6	15.1	-0.5	-13.3
Peterborough UA	7.1	16.7	-6.9	4.7	-3.1	14.1	7.7	5.3	-4.2	9.0	9.2
Southend-on-Sea UA	-4.5	10.8	2.5	7.7	-1.6	-3.7	-1.4	5.8	13.0	-1.1	1.3
Thurrock UA	x	x	19.1	-6.6	22.4	-13.8	9.5	1.1	4.2	11.2	6.5
Mid Bedfordshire	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8.0	-3.1	5.2	0.9
North Bedfordshire	5.0	3.6	10.3	14.0	-5.9	17.1	5.1	x	-7.5	24.6	8.5
South Bedfordshire	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cambridge	0.1	9.4	-10.5	25.0	7.7	8.7	18.0	-10.8	-1.4	10.2	-0.8
East Cambridgeshire	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Fenland	x	x	x	2.7	-1.9	31.7	-1.9	-7.4	-7.5	13.4	2.2
Huntingdonshire	21.8	-11.9	-2.5	6.6	3.6	2.7	23.4	-12.9	3.6	-3.1	27.8
South Cambridgeshire	17.9	-11.5	7.0	6.5	-6.5	1.3	24.1	4.5	-12.4	10.2	-1.6
Basildon	15.6	21.1	13.0	7.2	-14.7	12.9	1.0	-4.6	8.8	2.9	6.0
Braintree	-16.8	3.0	16.5	6.7	4.0	32.1	1.3	-2.3	-5.8	-17.5	20.5
Brentwood	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Castle Point	x	x	x	x	x	14.2	16.9	x	x	x	x
Chelmsford	17.3	12.1	10.3	-4.4	-10.4	11.9	17.6	1.8	11.9	-0.2	-5.1
Colchester	-7.6	-1.4	9.8	8.2	0.8	6.5	-3.3	-3.1	7.3	3.0	0.5
Epping Forest	x	x	x	x	x	x	2.6	x	x	21.3	14.3
Harlow	x	7.9	-3.4	x	x	x	x	x	x	-1.1	-14.3

Annual percentage change of median gross weekly pay—for part-time employee jobs[1]

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Maldon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Rochford	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tendring	x	x	x	x	x	5.7	34.0	x	x	20.9	7.4
Uttlesford	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Broxbourne	-4.4	5.7	x	x	x	-0.1	x	x	3.2	-6.6	5.3
Dacorum	23.7	-0.9	10.7	2.1	6.9	6.1	1.4	-12.6	18.0	0.8	-7.7
East Hertfordshire	30.9	-8.7	-3.1	19.1	-1.6	1.0	5.8	-1.3	11.6	-6.2	15.3
Hertsmere	x	x	x	x	x	-1.5	x	x	17.2	-7.6	-2.7
North Hertfordshire	6.9	11.8	x	x	15.7	-5.8	x	-6.6	15.5	0.5	-10.6
St. Albans	10.2	x	x	x	x	21.5	-0.7	0.4	10.6	-5.2	-3.8
Stevenage	x	0.3	5.2	-8.2	x	x	13.3	3.7	8.3	-10.2	-14.8
Three Rivers	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Watford	x	x	-3.5	-6.3	12.9	-2.4	17.5	-3.8	18.3	-3.8	32.0
Welwyn Hatfield	8.5	26.9	5.0	-7.1	5.2	x	x	x	5.0	7.0	-13.6
Breckland	x	-10.0	29.7	6.0	7.6	5.3	7.7	-7.5	13.8	4.8	-2.2
Broadland	x	x	-22.8	18.0	1.2	14.3	15.4	-5.4	5.5	-1.5	7.5
Great Yarmouth	-24.3	15.7	2.3	23.3	4.4	14.3	-3.8	7.5	9.5	-15.9	29.5
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	x	13.2	x	x	x	16.4	1.5	-0.5	16.3	-2.5	10.0
North Norfolk	x	x	x	x	x	22.8	10.5	-21.6	6.3	x	x
Norwich	-13.7	20.2	15.0	13.2	-2.8	-12.2	14.5	-7.9	-5.4	0.3	7.7
South Norfolk	x	x	9.8	-2.7	17.1	11.3	4.3	-0.4	11.9	3.6	x
Babergh	21.2	x	x	x	-12.2	1.7	2.6	8.7	4.8	1.5	x
Forest Heath	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	24.7
Ipswich	6.6	-5.6	10.8	-6.4	10.0	-12.1	9.3	22.5	13.6	-2.0	5.4
Mid Suffolk	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	36.3	1.7
St. Edmundsbury	x	x	x	-6.8	9.5	12.6	x	x	-10.6	24.0	9.0
Suffolk Coastal	x	x	x	x	18.6	3.7	19.2	-7.6	17.7	15.0	-16.6
Waveney	x	x	-8.3	-2.0	4.1	18.8	3.7	2.5	6.2	-6.0	1.2

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[2] Growth rate not shown due to unreliable levels of earnings estimates over the two years, either in one of the years or in both.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics 1998-2008

Bank Services: Public Consultation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what timetable she has set for consultation on a social investment bank. [287346]

Angela E. Smith: The Social Investment Wholesale Bank consultation, announced in Budget 2009, was launched on Wednesday 15 July. The consultation set out the vision, the economic case, and consulted on proposals for the design and functions of a potential bank. The consultation ran for a 12-week period and ended on 7 October in compliance with the Compact. This consultation will now inform substantive proposals to be developed by the Office of the Third Sector.

Building Britain's Future

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff maintain the Building Britain's Future *(a)* website, *(b)* Twitter feed, *(c)* blog and *(d)* video feeds. [290283]

Tessa Jowell: The Building Britain's Future website is maintained by one online editor who is responsible for *(a)* website, *(b)* twitter feed and *(c)* blog. Occasionally and infrequently this individual requires assistance in delivering *(d)* the video feeds. In these instances additional support is provided by one cameraman and two website development specialists. All of these staff are in-house Cabinet Office employees.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information has spent on acquiring online advertising space for the Building Britain's Future programme. [285142]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 1 October 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on how much the Central Office of Information has spent on acquiring online advertising space for the Building Britain's Future programme to date (285142).

The final amount spent on this programme was £190.03.

Capacitybuilders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent steps her Department has taken to increase participation rates in the *(a)* Capacity and *(b)* Futurebuilders scheme among charitable organisations in the East of England. [289241]

Angela E. Smith: Capacitybuilders programmes in the East of England are promoted through events, e-bulletins and local consortia of support providers, such as councils for voluntary service. All consortia funded by Capacitybuilders in the region are now assessed as fit for purpose, which includes engaging with frontline groups and marginalised communities. Capacitybuilders

Regional Managers maintain local contacts. A network of five local delivery agencies promoted the Modernisation Fund grants stream through 11 events in the region, newsletters and networks.

Futurebuilders England (FBE) has taken steps to promote the Futurebuilders Fund in the East of England, including at events in Huntingdon and Clacton. Since the start of July, FBE has allocated a dedicated Business Development Officer to engage with the sector within the East of England region.

Capacitybuilders and FBE together are delivering the new £16.5 million Modernisation Fund. This was promoted at the Office of the Third Sector's road show in Cambridge on 8 June 2009, attended by over 60 delegates from the region.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the criteria are for receiving funds from the Capacitybuilders Campaigning Research Programme. [292097]

Angela E. Smith: The Capacitybuilders Campaigning Research Programme will support organisations to take part in research about third sector campaigning. Criteria for the programme are:

Participants must be third sector organisations

Organisations must be small organisations with limited campaigning capacity

Organisations must be prepared to be involved in action learning (up to 10 days from October 2009 to March 2011)

Further, the campaign must:

Represent, support or champion the voice of a marginalised group or seek change on their behalf

Comply with the Charity Commission's guidance on campaigning and political activity

Use campaigning methods which can help the sector learn more about effective campaigning. This may be a campaign which is already running but could be improved by introducing new or different campaigning methods.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which organisations have been shortlisted for funding under the Capacitybuilders Campaigning Research Programme; and to fund what projects and initiatives such applications have been made. [292098]

Angela E. Smith: To date 49 organisations have been short listed for the Capacitybuilders Campaigning Research Programme. This was carried out by a selection panel, made up of third sector experts. The final programme will support around 30 organisations to participate in the research programme. Details of these organisations will be announced shortly, once the final selection process has been completed.

The programme will study, support and fund organisations through an action research programme to identify innovative ways for the third sector to campaign on behalf of disadvantaged people in society.

Capacitybuilders: Staffordshire

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what progress has been made on funding projects under the Capacitybuilders programme in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent and *(b)* Staffordshire. [289769]

Angela E. Smith: Capacitybuilders is making good progress in investing across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Investments through a range of programmes during 2008-11 are listed in the following table. Note that many grants benefit both Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. For example, the consortium grants benefit a group of 13 local support providers from across the area, including the rural community council, many councils for voluntary service and specialist bodies for black and minority ethnic and faith groups.

Programme	*Recipient*	*Period of grant*	*Area of benefit*	*Grant amount (£)*
Capital Programme	Lichfield and District Community and Voluntary Sector Support	One-off	Staffordshire	29,891
Volunteer Management Programme	Lichfield and District Community and Voluntary Sector Support	Three-month development grant for potential 18-month grant	Staffordshire (Sub-regional: Stoke on Trent benefits)	5,000
Real Help Now Modernisation Fund -Local Delivery Agent	Stafford District Voluntary Services	Six-month grant	Staffordshire (Sub-regional: Stoke-on-Trent benefits)	4,000
Real Help Now Modernisation Fund Provisional Bursary Awards	12 recipients across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	One-off	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	[1]12,000
Consortium Modernisation Project, 2008-11	Lichfield and District Community and Voluntary Sector Support	Three years	Staffordshire (Sub-regional: Stoke on Trent benefits)	132,570
Consortium Development Grant, 2008-11	Lichfield and District Community and Voluntary Sector Support	Three years	Staffordshire (Sub-regional: Stoke on Trent benefits)	156,000
Total				339,461

[1] 12 £1,000 bursaries.

Civil Servants

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many foreign nationals who are not Commonwealth or EEA citizens are employed in the civil service and work in positions based in the UK. [illegible]

Angela E. Smith: Data relating to the total number of non-EEA and non-Commonwealth nationals employed in the civil service and working in positions based in the UK are not held centrally by the Cabinet Office.

For data relating to the number of non-EEA and non-Commonwealth nationals employed under cover of aliens' certificate I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 22 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 700W, on Civil Servants: Foreign Workers.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 677W, on civil servants: pensions, if she will place in the Library a copy of the advice from Hewitt Associates Financial Services Limited on the reasons for which the Civil Service Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme should withdraw from the Scottish Widows and Standard Life with-profit funds. [290287]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 677W.

Civil Service West Midlands Pilot

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the terms of reference of the Civil Service West Midlands Pilot are; and whether *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* other members of the public who live outside the West Midlands are eligible to apply for jobs in the pilot. [290153]

Angela E. Smith: The Civil Service West Midlands Pilot (CSWM) is a programme of work aimed at improving the culture, identity and brand of the civil service. Answerable through a cross-departmental board to permanent secretaries, it seeks to improve the visibility and attractiveness of the civil service to people from all backgrounds, and allow staff to develop their careers locally rather than having to move to London.

On the specific questions:

(a) The pilot requires that civil service organisations advertising vacancies in the region open these up to all employees who live or work there. It is a matter for departments and agencies themselves to decide whether any such vacancies will also be advertised to civil servants elsewhere, and on what terms. The pilot does not constrain any such activity.

(b) The pilot is aimed at ensuring the civil service in the region is managing its vacancies internally before going outside the service. Organisations will open their vacancies to members of the public if the internal process fails to yield a suitable candidate. Also, if Departments are conducting a larger scale recruitment campaign indicating a need to go simultaneously to the wider market, this will be done.

Civil Service: Influenza

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what preparations have been undertaken to ensure the continued effectiveness of the Civil Service in the event of an influenza pandemic. [290086]

Tessa Jowell: All Government Departments have business continuity arrangements in place to address a wide range of scenarios as required under the Security Policy Framework. These plans focus on ensuring continued delivery of critical departmental activities, including at times of high staff absenteeism. To assist preparations, Departments are receiving regular updates and briefings including revised planning assumptions for staff absenteeism which are also available to other employers on the Cabinet Office website.

Community Development: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what organisations have received funding from Communitybuilders; and for what purpose in each case. [287355]

Angela E. Smith: The Communitybuilders Programme has been open for applications since 7 September and applications received to date are being assessed. The fund remains open and for more information potential applicants can visit:

www.communitybuildersfund.org.uk

Death: Cannabis

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many cannabis-related deaths there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [289419]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many cannabis-related deaths there were in (a) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (b) Dacorum and (c) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. (289419)

There were no deaths where the underlying cause was drug poisoning[1] and cannabis was mentioned on the death certificate, in (a) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (b) Dacorum local authority district or (c) Hertfordshire county, from 2003 to 2007[2,3] (the latest year available).

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in the box below), and where cannabis was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)	F11-F16, F18-F19
Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X40-X44
Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X60-X64
Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances	X85
Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent	Y10-Y14

Department Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289512]

Angela E. Smith: As a number of recruitment adverts are placed as part of a whole advertising campaign (campaigns can include both on-line and newspaper adverts as well as the preparation of application packs, sifting and assessments) it would be possible to provide the information only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what steps have been taken to improve the thermal efficiency of the 11 Downing Street building in the last 12 months; [289784]

(2) what steps have been taken to improve the thermal efficiency of the 10 Downing Street building in the last 12 months. [289785]

Angela E. Smith: As part of repair and refurbishment works, the Cabinet Office has introduced a building management system and work is currently underway to replace old and inefficient heating plant with compact heat exchangers and condensing boilers. The cost of such repair and refurbishment work is published annually in the Cabinet Office accounts.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291703]

Angela E. Smith: Details of expenditure on hire vehicles are shown in the table:

	£
2004-05	50,630
2005-06	29,259
2006-07	32,369
2007-08	49,839
2008-09	22,831

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Minister in her Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in her Department; whether her Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if she will make a statement. [289747]

Tessa Jowell: I am the Minister responsible for overseeing the delivery of value for money in the Cabinet Office.

The Public Services Unit was established in the Cabinet Office on 1 April 2009 to support the continued development of the Government's strategy for reforming public services and embed it through workforce and service innovation. The Unit covers four main policy areas: strategic analysis; workforce reform; innovation; and service transformation. The Unit works closely with HM Treasury, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and other parts of Cabinet Office, such as the Office of the Third Sector.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in her Department in each of the last five years. [289969]

Angela E. Smith: It [illegible] not possible to readily identify from the Department's accounting system how much was spent under the categories shown by Ministers and staff. This information is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Divorce

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many divorces have been concluded in each quarter of the last three years. [289319]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated August 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many divorces have been concluded in each quarter of the last three years. (289319)

The table below summarises divorces concluded in each quarter for 2005, 2006 and 2007; data for 2007 are provisional.

UK Divorces by quarter 2005-07

Quarters	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
March	39,448	37,682	38,875
June	40,000	36,720	37,231
September	38,882	37,004	36,733
December	36,722	36,735	31,381
Total	155,052	148,141	144,220

[1] Provisional

Divorces are tabulated according to date of decree absolute. The term 'divorces' includes decrees of nullity. The fact that a divorce has taken place in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland does not mean either of the parties is resident there.

In Scotland a small number of late divorces from previous years are added to the current year. Scotland are presently revising their divorce counts to exclude the late divorces from previous years (back to 1985). The changes will be small and will not affect UK trends over the time period in question. The new Scottish counts will be published by the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) in their forthcoming Annual Report, due to be published on 7 August 2009.

Domestic Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent discussions she has had with domestic violence charities which have lost money as a result of the collapse of Icelandic banks; and if she will make a statement. [290501]

Angela E. Smith: I regularly meet with third sector organisations, including those working in the area of domestic violence. I have received no representations from these organisations regarding the impact of the collapse of Icelandic banks.

Employment: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in employment in Hemel Hempstead constituency in May in each year since 1997; [289440]

(2) how many people in Hemel Hempstead constituency have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than two years; [289439]

(3) how many and what proportion of young people aged between 18 and 24 years old resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire claimed jobseeker's allowance in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) 2009 to date. [289614]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in employment in Hemel Hempstead constituency in May in each year since 1997; how many people in Hemel Hempstead constituency have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than two years; and how many and what proportion of young people aged between 18 and 24 years old resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire claimed jobseeker's allowance in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) 2009 to date. (289440,289439 and 289614)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Monthly estimates are not available. Table 1 shows the number of men and women resident in Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency who were in employment in each year since 1997.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The number of persons claiming JSA in June 2009 for more than 2 years was 10.

Table 2 shows the number and percentage of 18 to 24 year olds claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the requested areas. Percentages are not available for the Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons resident in Hemel Hempstead in employment

Thousand

12 months ending	*Male*	*Female*
February 1998	26	22
February 1999	27	24
February 2000	25	23
February 2001	28	24
February 2002	27	23
February 2003	28	28
February 2004	27	29
December 2004	27	26
December 2005	27	24
December 2006	29	21
December 2007	29	25
December 2008[1]	***27	***26

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV<5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Table 2: Number and percentage of 18 to 24-year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance

	Hemel Hempstead		*Dacorum*		*Hertfordshire*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2004						
June	255	—	300	3.0	1,870	2.4
July	240	—	290	2.9	2,030	2.6
August	290	—	345	3.5	2,205	2.8
September	285	—	340	3.5	2,165	2.8
October	280	—	330	3.4	1,980	2.5
November	270	—	325	3.3	1,925	2.4
December	245	—	290	2.9	1,885	2.4
2005						
January	265	—	315	3.2	2,155	2.7
February	275	—	325	3.3	2,245	2.8
March	280	—	340	3.4	2,330	2.9
April	275	—	330	3.3	2,285	2.9
May	290	—	350	3.5	2,250	2.8
June	285	—	335	3.4	2,185	2.7
July	305	—	365	3.7	2,375	3.0
August	340	—	410	4.1	2,565	3.2
September	330	—	405	4.1	2,560	3.2
October	315	—	370	3.7	2,390	3.0
November	310	—	365	3.7	2,335	2.9
December	270	—	330	3.3	2,225	2.8

Table 2: Number and percentage of 18 to 24-year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance

	Hemel Hempstead		*Dacorum*		*Hertfordshire*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006						
January	310	—	385	3.8	2,415	3.0
February	360	—	435	4.4	2,745	3.4
March	370	—	450	4.5	2,805	3.4
April	370	—	435	4.4	2,690	3.3
May	350	—	420	4.2	2,580	3.2
June	345	—	405	4.1	2,560	3.1
July	345	—	425	4.2	2,820	3.5
August	345	—	420	4.2	2,965	3.6
September	345	—	425	4.3	2,980	3.7
October	350	—	435	4.4	2,870	3.5
November	340	—	420	4.2	2,720	3.3
December	290	—	350	3.5	2,395	2.9
2007						
January	320	—	390	3.8	2,565	3.1
February	340	—	410	4.0	2,710	3.2
March	345	—	400	3.9	2,675	3.2
April	310	—	360	3.5	2,465	2.9
May	320	—	370	3.6	2,445	2.9
June	315	—	350	3.4	2,340	2.8
July	300	—	335	3.3	2,390	2.9
August	315	—	355	3.5	2,520	3.0
September	275	—	315	3.1	2,360	2.8
October	250	—	285	2.8	2,245	2.7
November	235	—	270	2.6	2,060	2.5
December	215	—	250	2.4	1,895	2.3
2008						
January	240	—	280	2.8	2,045	2.4
February	275	—	315	3.1	2,265	2.7
March	275	—	325	3.2	2,280	2.7
April	265	—	315	3.1	2,175	2.6
May	245	—	285	2.8	2,120	2.5
June	270	—	305	3.0	2,130	2.5
July	305	—	345	3.4	2,380	2.8
August	355	—	400	3.9	2,750	3.3
September	365	—	415	4.0	2,860	3.4
October	360	—	420	4.1	2,895	3.5
November	340	—	405	4.0	2,960	3.5
December	320	—	380	3.7	3,165	3.8
2009						
January	390	—	470	4.6	3,590	4.3
February	515	—	625	6.1	4,630	5.5
March	575	—	690	6.7	4,885	5.8
April	580	—	690	6.7	4,990	6.0
May	590	—	705	6.9	4,925	5.9
June	555	—	655	6.4	4,820	5.8

Note:
Numbers rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Influenza

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* role and *(b)* remit of the Cabinet Office is in relation to resilience and civil contingency planning measures for an influenza pandemic. [287239]

Tessa Jowell: The Department of Health is the lead Department responsible for managing cross-government preparations for, and the response to, an influenza pandemic. The Cabinet Office supports this work by ensuring effective collective consideration of cross-cutting issues, as necessary. This is part of the Cabinet Office's wider remit to build resilience and make Government work better by ensuring the coherence, quality and delivery of policy and operations across Departments and the wider public sector.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of people in each local authority area in England aged between *(a)* 18 and 24, *(b)* 25 and 30, *(c)* 31 and 40, *(d)* 41 and 50 and *(e)* 51 and 65 years claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years. [289296]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of people in each local authority area in England aged between (a) 18 and 24, (b) 25 and 30, (c) 31 and 40, (d) 41 and 50 and (e) 51 and 65 years claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years. (289296)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The requested age bands are not available, however figures are produced on a similar standard breakdown. Tables 1 to 5 show the number and proportion of people aged 18 to 24, 25 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59 and 60 and over resident in each local authority area in England who has claimed JSA in each of the last five years. As the information provided is extensive, a copy of the tables has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Members: Correspondence

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will place in the Library a copy of the memorandum entitled Summer Recess circulated to Government departments. [290499]

Angela E. Smith: No.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Costs

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much each of the special advisers in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* 10 Downing Street have claimed in expenses payments in the last 24 months. [290036]

Angela E. Smith: It is not possible to readily identify from the Department's accounting system how much was claimed in expenses payments by special advisers in the last 24 months. This information is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Ministers: Data Protection

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will review security arrangements for Ministers' *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* BlackBerrys, *(c)* home telephones and *(d)* personnel internet accounts in order to identify any areas of weakness. [288869]

Tessa Jowell: The Security Policy Framework (SPF) published in December 2008 sets out mandatory minimum requirements for physical, personal and information/data security that Departments and their agencies must adhere to. Departments develop local security policies based on the SPF, taking account of the particular risks faced by their organisation.

Pensioners: Death

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her most recent estimate is of the number of people over the age of 65 years who died as a result of cold weather-related illnesses in the winter of *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [289646]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most recent estimate is of the number of people over the age of 65 years who died as a result of cold-weather-related illnesses in the winter of (a) 2006-07, (b) 2007-08 and (c) 2008-09. (289646)

The number of excess winter deaths in England and Wales,[1,2] of persons aged 65 years and over, for (a) 2006-07 was 22,550, and for (b) 2007-08 was 22,400[3] (the latest figures available).

It is not possible to say whether these deaths were related to cold weather. Also, there is no official definition of 'cold-weather-related illnesses', therefore deaths from all causes have been included.

[1] Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July).

[2] Figures are based on deaths occurring in each month.

[3] Figures for 2006-07 are final, figures for 2007-08 are provisional. Final figures are rounded to the nearest 10, provisional figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Political Parties

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what guidance has been issued to non-departmental public bodies in the last 12 months on undertaking expenditure in relation to conferences held by political parties; [290139]

(2) what guidance the Cabinet Office has given to non-departmental public bodies on attendance by staff of such bodies at conferences held by political parties. [290039]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office has issued guidance reminding Departments and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) of the rules and principles governing NDPB attendance and activity at party conferences. Copies have been placed in the Libraries.

Public Appointments

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of all public appointments were advertised on the www.publicappts-vacs.gov.uk website in the latest period for which figures are available; and what guidance she has given to *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies on listing public vacancies on that site. [290038]

Tessa Jowell: The majority of public appointments are advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointment Vacancies website. Cabinet Office guidance is that all vacancies to posts regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments must be advertised on the site. This is also a requirement of the Commissioner's own Code of Practice. It is the responsibility of the Commissioner for Public Appointments to monitor, and report on compliance with, her Code of Practice.

Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the letter from the Cabinet Secretary to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 21 April 2009, whether the legal work in relation to the statement by the hon. Member for West Bromwich East in relation to the Red Rag website and Mr. Damian McBride was paid for from the public purse. [290041]

Tessa Jowell: No.

Public Services Forum

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 943W, on the Public Services Forum, whether minutes are kept of the meetings of the Public Services Forum. [290171]

Tessa Jowell: Notes are kept of Public Services Forum meetings. A note of the 5 March 2009 Public Services Forum has been placed in the Library of the House and published on the internet. Each further Public Services Forum meeting will be published on the departmental website.

Tamils

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Tamils live in the United Kingdom. [291528]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many Tamils live in the United Kingdom. (291528).

The most reliable data on the number of people identifying as Tamil come from the 2001 Censuses in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - the numbers of people identifying in more recent surveys are too small to produce reliable estimates. Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland has been provided by their respective Registrars General.

None of the 2001 UK. censuses included a 'Tamil' tick-box in their ethnic group questions although respondents had the option to give an identity of their choice in one of the write-in spaces provided, if they did not believe that any the given options was appropriate.

A total of 5,818 people in the UK used the write-in option to describe their ethnic group as 'Tamil' and a further 68,524 people wrote in that their ethnic group was 'Sri Lankan'. It is not known how many of these Sri Lankans also have a Tamil identity.

Furthermore all the UK censuses included an 'Indian' pre-designated tick-box, which some respondents may have ticked without providing further information.

Water Charges: Sewers

Nick Herbert: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what percentage of *(a)* all and *(b)* low income households spent more than 3 per cent. of their disposable income before housing costs on water and sewerage bills, in the latest period for which figures are available. [289682]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated July 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what percentage of (a) all and (b) low income households spent more than 3 per cent f their disposable income on water and sewerage bills, before housing costs, in the latest period for which figures are available. (289682)

he table below shows the percentage of UK. households with water bills greater than three per cent of disposable income in 2006/07. The table also shows the percentage of households where income is below 60 per cent of the median with water bills greater than three per cent of disposable income. For this estimate an average for the period 2004/05 to 2006/07 has been provided, due to small sample size. The information in this response is based on the Expenditure and Food Survey, which has a sample size of approximately 6,400 households in each year.

These estimates, as with any involving sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Percentage of households with water bills greater than 3 per cent. of disposable income[1, 2] *United Kingdom*

	Percentage
All households[3]	13
Households where income is below 60 per cent. of median[4]	40

[1] Water bills include water, sewerage charges and water charges of a second home.

[2] Disposable income is all income from: wages, self-employment income, occupational pensions, investment income, imputed income from benefits in kind, and state benefits after the deduction of income tax, employees' national insurance contributions and council tax.

[3] 2006-07.

[4] Average value for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Source:

Office for National Statistics from Expenditure and Food Survey

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Military Aid

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will increase the strength of the Royal Military Police to meet demands to recruit and train the Afghan National Police. [291515]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Military Police currently provide six teams to train Afghan National Police in Helmand; we keep the size and number of these teams under review. We have no current plans to increase the size of the Royal Military Police in order to recruit and train the Afghan National Police.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from Northern Ireland are serving in Afghanistan. [289289]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the residential location of armed forces personnel are not held centrally and it is therefore not possible to provide figures for the numbers of service personnel serving in Afghanistan by country of residence.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has had recent discussions with representatives of other nations engaged on military operations in Afghanistan on the effect of such operations on defence budgets. [289490]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We regularly discuss with our allies the provision of resources for the ISAF mission and we continue to call on contributing nations, particularly our European partners, to share more of the burden in Afghanistan.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for changes to the number of British troops in Afghanistan in the next three months; and whether he expects the number of British troops deployed in that country to change as a result of the presidential elections in that country. [289491]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Prime Minister will be making a full statement to Parliament on Afghanistan later this week, it would therefore not be appropriate for me to comment further on plans for troop levels before then.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters of each type serving in Afghanistan have previously been used in operations in *(a)* the Falklands, *(b)* the First Gulf War and *(c)* Iraq. [289656]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The statistical information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table provides details on the helicopter types currently deployed in Afghanistan.

	Helicopter types used in:		
Platforms currently serving in Afghanistan	*(a) Falklands (1982)*	*(b) First Gulf War*	*(c) Iraq*
Lynx Mk 7	No	Yes	Yes
Lynx Mk 9	No	No	Yes
Sea King Mk 4	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chinook Mk 2	Yes	Yes	Yes

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the RAF Typhoon to be deployed to Afghanistan. [290066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no plans to replace the Tornado in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission research into post-traumatic stress in pilots of unmanned aerial vehicles operating in conflict areas in Afghanistan. [291629]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD takes seriously the mental health of all armed forces personnel. The RAF Medical Services have not detected any instances of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, nor any acute stress reaction, in any UK pilot responsible for the operation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Afghanistan. There are currently no plans to commission specific research into the mental health of these particular aircrew.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will make arrangements to embed the journalist Michael Yon with British forces in Afghanistan. [292511]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Any request by Michael Yon to embed with British forces in Afghanistan will be considered alongside other requests from the media, as was the case for his previous embeds.

He will 'not' be given special treatment, neither will he be disadvantaged by comparison with others.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the key user requirements relating to the current improvised explosive device threat in Afghanistan are, as used by his Department in the procurement of armoured fighting vehicles. [292512]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The requirements of vehicles for Afghanistan are primarily determined by the specific task the vehicle is to carry out and the threat it is expected to face. This means we need to find the right balance between capability, survivability, mobility and the physical protection that operational commanders demand. I cannot comment on the specific types and levels of protection, as disclosure could prejudice the security of the armed forces.

Air Force: Festivals and Special Occasions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force shows there were in 2008; and how many he expects there to be in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2013, *(c)* 2014 and *(d)* 2015. [291513]

Bill Rammell: Three Royal Air Force shows were held in 2008, at Waddington, Leuchars and Cosford. The programme for Royal Air Force shows is decided on an annual basis. No decisions have yet been taken regarding shows for the years between 2012 and 2015. In addition to these Royal Air Force shows, the Royal Air Force provides assets for displays and flypasts at several hundred civilian and military events each year.

Armed Forces

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place a copy of the most recent *(a)* Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team, *(b)* RAF Personnel Liaison Team and *(c)* Navy Personnel Liaison Team report in the Library. [291569]

Bill Rammell: The most recent report compiled by the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team, that for 2008, was placed in the Library of the House in May 2009 and remains the most recently published at this time; a copy of the next report, due for publication in 2010, will be placed in the Library of the House when formally published.

The Royal Air Force Liaison Team was disestablished in 2005 and its last report, published in May 2004, was released into the public domain in late 2008; a copy of this report will be deposited in the Library of the House.

The Royal Navy's Second Sea Lord's Personnel Liaison Team was disestablished in late 2005 though a copy of its last report, published in May 2005, was released into the public domain in late 2008; a copy of this report will be deposited in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces Resettlement Grants

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many applications for armed forces resettlement grants have been refused on the basis of age-related eligibility in the last five years; [291707]

(2) when he next plans to review the age criteria for eligibility for armed forces resettlement grants; [291708]

(3) for what reasons service in the armed forces before the age of 18 does not count for gratuity purposes. [291709]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Age related criteria for the resettlement grant only apply to those service leavers who are members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) 75 and there are no plans to review this at present. Under AFPS 75 there is a time served eligibility criterion of nine years from the age of 21 and for other ranks 12 years service from the age of 18. If these criteria are satisfied payment is made as soon after a discharge date as possible. No application for a resettlement grant is required, although a form is completed to confirm where payment is to be made. As a consequence none have been declined.

Reckonable service for other ranks was deemed to be from the date of joining or the age of 18 whichever is the latest. Historically, those who joined the armed forces under the age of 18 were boy soldiers, sailors, airmen or apprentices. They had rights to discharge prior to their 18th birthday different to those who were older. Conversion to reckonable service took place automatically for those that were serving on their 18th birthday. For officers, reckonable service commenced from age 21 to reflect the career pattern of those that normally joined after university. Like other ranks, officers who joined under the age of 21 had different conditions of service which automatically transferred to reckonable service on reaching their 21st birthday.

Following the introduction of Armed Forces Pension Scheme 05 on 6 April 2005, service personnel were given the option to transfer from AFPS 75 to the new scheme. For those that did and all new joiners to the armed forces, regardless of age, reckonable service commences from the date of joining. The time served criteria for resettlement grant of 12 years now applies to both groups and is widely accepted to be much fairer.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured on active service in each of the last 30 years. [291801]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of service personnel who have died on active service (which is defined as military duty in an operational area) are set out in the following table:

	Number
All	1,030
1979	48
1980	17
1981	23
1982	265
1983	15
1984	19
1985	6
1986	12
1987	11
1988	33
1989	14
1990	19
1991	53
1992	6
1993	10
1994	15
1995	12
1996	13
1997	5
1998	8
1999	9
2000	6
2001	8
2002	6
2003	52
2004	24
2005	24
2006	69
2007	89
2008	55
2009 (up to 5 October)	84

Information on service personnel seriously injured prior to 2001 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2001, the numbers of service personnel who have been very seriously, or seriously, injured while on active service in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan are set out in the following table.

	All	*VSI*	*SI*
All	513	205	308
2001	6	2	4
2002	3	3	0
2003	50	14	36
2004	53	17	36
2005	22	7	15
2006	65	29	36
2007	134	47	87

	All	VSI	SI
2008	74	32	42
2009 (up to 15 September)	106	54	52

Armed Forces: Engineering

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of precision engineering equipment used by the armed forces is purchased from UK suppliers. [291676]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held in the format requested. It is, however, estimated that about 70 per cent. of MOD expenditure on precision instruments (e.g. medical instruments, scientific instruments, navigational instruments etc) is with companies where work was carried out in the UK, but not necessarily by UK-owned companies. This figure does not include expenditure on those contracts managed via British Defence Staff in the United States, activities subcontracted to industry by MOD Trading Funds or through international collaborative projects.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service families have been granted housing under shared equity schemes since the publication of Command Paper 7424. [291511]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format requested.

The Key Worker Living programme in England is run on behalf of the Government by 23 regional "Homebuy Agents". There is no requirement to advise the MOD of how many successful applications are from service families.

In Wales, the devolved Administration do not record those in shared equity schemes who are members of service families.

Since August 2008 Scotland began collecting information of this type and to date there are 10 households where the shared equity buyer has declared themselves as being a member of the armed forces or a veteran. However, this may understate the position as not all buyers choose to return a form advising of their employment group in a timely fashion.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel had priority status under the Key Worker Living scheme in England in 2008. [291512]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Eligibility for Key Worker Status extends to all Regular Armed Forces personnel, including MPGS, MOD Police, Defence Fire Service and clinical staff in MOD medical establishments of all personal status categories. They retain their entitlement to Key Worker Status for the first year after leaving.

However, one of the criteria to be applied in determining key worker status is to have a household income of less than £60,000. While we can identify those service personnel who have a salary less than this amount we do not hold information on other income generated by the household.

Armed Forces: Internet

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will issue guidance on the use of military computer networks to access social networking sites. [291549]

Bill Rammell: The MOD has recently issued guidelines designed to help service and civilian personnel make full use of social networking sites while protecting their security, reputation and privacy. These guidelines apply to all use of social networking sites, whether accessed via MOD networks or otherwise, and are available at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/MediaandPublicCommunicationPublications/OnlineEngagementGuidelines.htm

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many troops returning from *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq have been treated for (i) post traumatic stress disorder and (ii) drug and alcohol dependency in each of the last five years; [289532]

(2) what support is available for *(a)* soldiers and *(b)* veterans suffering from (i) post traumatic stress disorder, (ii) drug and alcohol dependency and (c) any other mental illness; and if he will make a statement. [289533]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation publishes statistics on new attendances to the MOD's Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) in the UK Armed Forces Psychiatric Morbidity reports. Quarterly and annual reports for the whole of 2007 and 2008, and quarterly reports for January to March and April to June 2009, are now available both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD takes very seriously its responsibility to provide high-quality mental health care to its personnel. Diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders in members of the armed forces are performed by trained and accredited mental health personnel. In Afghanistan, we deploy uniformed mental health nurses to provide in-theatre care and treatment for our personnel. If personnel need to leave the operational environment, then their care continues either on an out- or in-patient basis in the UK or their permanent base overseas.

In the UK, our mental health services for military personnel are configured to provide community-based mental health care, primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK (plus centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental health care. The DCMH mental health teams, comprising psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists and mental health social workers, have particular expertise in treatments for psychological injury.

For the relatively small number of military patients who need it, in-patient care is currently provided by a group of seven NHS trusts located throughout England and Scotland, led by South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) through a central MOD contract.

The Department has issued guidance to commanders on substance misuse and all three services have robust drug and alcohol policies in place. As such early intervention by the chain of command is likely to occur for disciplinary or welfare reasons before treatment by the Defence Medical Services would become necessary.

Service personnel identified by the chain of command as being at risk of alcohol misuse receive counselling and welfare support, this can include attendance on preventative early intervention programmes designed to alert them to the harm that alcohol can cause to themselves and others. More serious cases are treated through specialist medical and psychological treatment and rehabilitation, including where appropriate as in-patients.

Drug use is seen as being incompatible with military service and as such there is a zero tolerance policy which is reinforced by Compulsory Drug Testing (CDT). In the majority of cases a positive CDT result will lead to an immediate administrative discharge. In very exceptional circumstances service personnel may be retained if their drug use is considered to be uncharacteristic and their retention would be in the interest of the service. In these cases retention is subject to the successful completion of a special programme, which is designed to re-educate and give training in cognitive behavioural therapy.

When personnel leave military service their health care becomes the responsibility of the NHS. Ex-service personnel receive good treatment from their GPs but we recognise that many health professionals have limited experience of dealing with veterans who have mental health symptoms arising from their service experience. The MOD, the four health departments and the Combat Stress charity have been working together with clinical experts and the Health and Social Care Advisory Service (HASCAS) to develop a new model of community based mental health care that will address assessment and treatment of veterans' mental health problems in the long term.

The community mental health model is NHS-led and reflects NHS best practice. Two-year pilots, tailored to local circumstances, are operating at Staffordshire and Shropshire Foundation Healthcare Trust, Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust, Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust, Tees Esk and Wear NHS Trust, Cornwall NHS Partnership, and NHS Lothian (led by the Scottish Executive). Evaluation of the pilot areas is now under way; early results from all six are encouraging, with evidence that veterans feel able to access and use the service with confidence. Informed by the results of the evaluation the service will be rolled out across the UK. In the interim, for areas not yet involved in the pilots, veterans with operational service after 1982 who are concerned about their mental health can attend our Medical Assessment Programme based at St. Thomas' hospital, for specialist mental health assessment by a consultant psychiatrist with extensive military experience.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to ensure the provision of suitable after-care for veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan in respect of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental illnesses; and if he will make a statement. [290408]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since 1948, it has been successive Governments' policy that the NHS should be the main provider of health care for veterans and for the majority of veterans their mental health needs are fully met by current NHS provisions.

The Department of Health and devolved Administrations with support from the Ministry of Defence and Combat Stress have launched six mental health pilots around the United Kingdom. The aim of the pilots is to deliver a service which provides expert assessment and interventions and which is acceptable to veterans.

The early results from all six pilots are encouraging with evidence that veterans feel able to access and use the service with confidence. Evidence suggests that the presence of the pilots is making a difference to the local veterans' communities.

Veterans who do not live near one of the regional schemes can access the Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) which is available to veterans who were deployed on operations since 1982. The MAP offers comprehensive physical and mental health assessments for veterans who feel that their ill-health may be linked to military service.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to monitor the implementation of the recruitment policy of the armed forces in respect of *(a)* people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and *(b)* children of low-income households. [291875]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces aim to recruit the very best from all sectors of society regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender or financial standing. All three services have extensive programmes and dedicated teams to raise awareness of the armed forces in ethnic minority (EM) communities and to encourage recruitment. In partnership with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, we have set a target of 8 per cent EM representation by 2013. Our progress towards this target is continually monitored and published quarterly and can be found on the following website:

www.dasa.mod.uk

As at 1 July 2009, EM representation stood at 6.6 per cent.

There are no recruitment policies or targets set for the number of military per[illegible]nel from low income households and such informat[illegible]uently not monitored.

Army

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team report. [289980]

Bill Rammell: A copy of the most recently published report, that for 2008, compiled by the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team was placed in the Library of the House in May 2009 and remains the most recent edition published. The next report is being complied for publication in 2010 and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House when formally published.

Army: Deployment

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what proportion of personnel in the Army are deployable; [289981]

(2) how many and what proportion of personnel in the Army were deployable in each year since 2001. [289982]

Bill Rammell: The Army collates deployability figures for its deployable elements only, not its total trained strength.

The following table provides the information requested on a quarterly basis since March 2007. Figures before that date are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Date	*Number of personnel within deployable units*	*Number of deployable personnel*	*Percentage of personnel deployable*
March 2007	70,140	63,365	90.3
June 2007	70,100	63,650	90.8
September 2007	68,030	62,020	91.2
December 2007	67,355	61,000	90.6
March 2008	70,230	64,130	91.3
June 2008	69,700	63,700	91.5
September 2008	72,780	65,640	90.2
December 2008	73,240	65,950	90.0
March 2009	73,735	66,400	90.1
June 2009	76,800	68,930	89.8

Note:
Personnel numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to one decimal point.

Army: Northern Ireland

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the merits of deploying troops on the South Armagh border areas for the purpose of preventing attacks by dissident republican groups. [291651]

Bill Rammell: No. The safety and security of the people of Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). In a written ministerial statement released on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 28WS, following the end of Op Banner my predecessor stated

> "The Armed Forces will continue to provide support to the PSNI and contribute to civil contingencies where required through normal procedures for military aid to the civil authorities in the UK."

Balkans: Peacekeeping Operations

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many settlements of what monetary value his Department has paid to members of the armed forces in each age group in relation to combat stress following service in Bosnia and Kosovo; how many claims for such settlements are outstanding; and if he will make a statement. [291947]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of claims settled and outstanding together with the amount of compensation paid including legal costs is shown as follows:

	Number settled	*Compensation paid (£ million)*	*Number outstanding*
Bosnia	5	1.5	0
Kosovo	0	0	1

The age of those service personnel at the date of settlement of their claims ranged from 32 to 46. The age of the one outstanding claimant is 44.

Defence Equipment

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will discuss with his US counterpart the development of a hyper-sonic mass technology joint capability. [291755]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD's research into hyper-sonic mass technology ended in 2005 and it was determined that the technology did not offer cost effective alternatives to current capabilities. This position was reiterated in section B7 of the "Defence Technology Strategy," published October 2006 of which a copy is available in the Library of the House. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence will not be raising this issue with his US counterpart, Secretary Gates.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the report by Bernard Gray on defence procurement. [289808]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Bernard Gray's Review of Acquisition will be published once it has been finalised, following which I shall place a copy of the report in the Library of the House.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to publish the Bernard Gray report on his Ministry's equipment programme. [291570]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The report is expected to be published in the autumn.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289513]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department is unable to provide this information as it is not held in the format requested. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Minister for the armed forces gave on recruitment advertising on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 23-4W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been paid by his Department in legal costs to *(a)* the solicitor Phil Shiner and *(b)* public interest lawyers since 2001. [289809]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Specific data on the expenditure by the MOD on all legal costs paid to claimants' solicitors are not held centrally and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military manpower capitation rates are. [289984]

Bill Rammell: A copy of the 2009-10 average yearly capitation rates for industrial and non-industrial civilian staff, members of the MOD Police Service, MOD Police and Guarding Agency and military personnel of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and RAF has been placed in the Library of the House.

Capitation rates are used mainly for charging other Government departments, foreign governments and the private sector. Average capitation rates are not generally used for military ranks above colonel and equivalent as any calculations would be based on actual rates for greater accuracy.

The rates are an average of the attributable direct employment costs that include: salary and pay related elements national insurance contributions and superannuation charges and indirect administrative costs borne by the Department. The rates do not include individual allowances.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292060]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows how many staff there were in the Ministry of Defence on 1 April 1997 and 1 August 2009.

		Thousands FTE[1]
	1 April 1997	*1 August 2009*
Total personnel	348.5	[2]281.7
Service	215.1	[2]195.9
Civil servants	133.3	85.8

[1] Full-time Equivalent FTE is a measure of the size of the workforce that takes account of the fact that some people work part-time. Actual hours worked are used; the average hours worked by part-timers is about 60 per cent. of full-time hours.

[2] Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, Service strength statistics for 1 April 2007 onwards are provisional and subject to review.

Comparative data for the time periods between 1 April 1997 and the current data can be found at the following website:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/modintranet/UKDS/UKDS2009/c2/table201.html

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1171W, on departmental marketing, how many staff in his Department were responsible for branding activity in 2008-09; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [290218]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In the financial year 2008-09 seven members of staff had some responsibility for brand management issues as part of their wider duties in the central MOD Media and Communication organisation.

The total cost of these seven staff was £363,000 based on average capitation rates. Only a small proportion of this cost is attributable to brand management activities. It is not possible to say how much as the time spent varies from week to week.

Some Defence Agencies, Top Level Budget areas, Trading Funds, Joint Headquarters, single Service Commands and some military units also have individuals whose responsibilities include brand management. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291598]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Expenditure on short term hires of passenger cars for the last five financial years through the UK White Fleet contract is provided in the following table.

Financial year	*Amount (ex-VAT) £ million*
2004-05	14
2005-06	14.5
2006-07	15.9
2007-08	16.3
2008-09	18.2

Expenditure on short term hires of passenger cars for the last two financial years, through the British Forces Germany White Fleet contract is provided in the following table.

Financial year	*Amount (ex VAT) £ million*
2007-08	3.7
2008-09	5.2

These data have been rounded to approximate figures.

Data prior to this are held in hard copy and could only be analysed and provided at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on other overseas car hire, booked through MOD's Defence Travel Cell, has only been recorded since April 2008 and amounted to some £1.2 million (ex-VAT) in FY 2008-09.

Hires through Government Procurement Cards, MOD Agencies such as the Defence Support Group, Met Office and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory and overseas dependencies fall outside the scope of White Fleet contracts and have separate local arrangements. These details are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 747W, on departmental official hospitality, how much his Department spent on entertainment and hospitality in *(a)* each year from 1997-98 to 2006-07 and *(b)* 2008-09. [290178]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has spent the following on entertainment and hospitality.

	£ million
1997-98	5.0
1998-99	5.6
1999-2000	5.5
2000-01	6.0
2001-02	7.2
2002-03	7.3
2003-04	8.0
2004-05	6.5
2005-06	5.4
2006-07	4.3
2007-08	4.2
2008-09	4.3

These figures include expenditure by the Defence Agencies, but not by the MOD's Trading Funds and Executive Non-Departmental Bodies, which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary.

Expenditure on entertaining and hospitality is incurred according to business need and is subject to prior approval and compliance with departmental rules and the principles of propriety set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury's handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money. Departmental-level information on expenditure on entertainment and hospitality has been routinely published for many years, including in our annual report and accounts. From 2008-09 this information is shown broken down between "Other Administration Costs" (in Note 10a) and "Other Programme Costs" (in Note 10b).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289743]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones) has been appointed Value for Money Minister for the Ministry of Defence in response to the announcement about the Organisational Efficiency programme made in the 2009 Budget.

The Ministry of Defence is committed to delivering greater value for money, strengthening its governance and working more closely with both other Departments and the centre of Government to achieve this. The Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 described the wide range of programmes in place to deliver efficiency and value for money savings. A specific public service reform team has not been formed and the work is coordinated by the Defence Board and the Value for Money Minister.

Electronic Warfare

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the estimated cost of incorporating a surge protection device in a typical electricity generating station; and what assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of such a device. [289835]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Assessments on the threats faced by electricity generation and distribution in the UK, and advice on proportionate protective measures, are provided by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) in close consultation with the energy sector and the Department for Energy and Climate Change, rather than the Ministry of Defence.

Falkland Islands: Chinook/Apache Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British armed forces *(a)* Chinook and *(b)* Apache attack helicopters are stationed in the Falkland Islands. [290179]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no Chinook or Apache attack helicopters stationed in the Falkland Islands.

Falkland Islands: Military Bases

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the size of the complement serving at the military garrison on the Falkland Islands. [291756]

Bill Rammell: There are some 1,250 UK armed forces personnel based in the South Atlantic Islands, the majority on the Falkland Islands, supported by a small detachment based on Ascension Island. This figure varies during the year due to individual posting plots and unit moves. Force levels are subject to regular review, the last having completed in July 2009, but there are no current plans to change them.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome was of the discussions on the A400M aircraft with EU partner nations in July 2009. [291557]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A number of discussions were held with partner nations during July 2009. The culmination of these was the announcement at the ministerial meeting on 24 July 2009 that the UK agreed to join Partner Nations in a negotiation phase to determine the way ahead for the A400M programme.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the A400M to enter service with the Royal Air Force. [291763]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK has joined Partner Nations in a negotiation phase with Airbus Military. The purpose of these discussions—which are not expected to conclude before the end of this year—is to determine the way ahead for the A400M programme, including revised aircraft production and delivery schedules. Until these discussions are complete, it is not possible to provide definitive dates. The current planning assumption is late 2014.

Future Nature of War

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's document, The Future Nature of War. [289986]

Bill Rammell: There has been a range of work on the character of future conflict conducted within the MOD. Key findings will be incorporated within the Defence Green Paper that will be published in early 2010.

Gazelle Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the replacement of the Gazelle fleet of helicopters on reaching its out-of-service date. [290129]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have recently extended the out-of service date for the Gazelle from 2012 to 2018. This change to our planning assumptions is based on a revised assessment of the need to provide a capability in support of domestic commitments, and can be safely provided from the remaining fatigue life of the airframes. This decision has no impact for operations in Afghanistan as the Gazelle is not used in the battlefield helicopter role; its former battlefield communications and ISTAR roles are all now performed by other helicopters and non-rotary wing assets.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288464]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I do not currently plan to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment.

Greater London

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* office and *(b)* technical premises in Greater London his Department owns. [289987]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following list provides the office premises in Greater London the Department owns.

6 - 8 Palmer Street
Army Career And Information Office, Wembley
Horse Guards, Whitehall
Ministry of Defence Main Building
Old War Office, Westminster
The Citadel

It is not possible to separately identify from centrally held records those sites which might be regarded as technical from other sites. However, the other sites that the Department owns in Greater London are provided as follows:

48 Hornton Street
ACTon Territorial Army Centre (TAC)
Aylward Air Training Corps (ATC)
Balham TAC
Barking Army Cadet Force (ACF) HUT
Barking ATC HUT
Barking ATC Store
Barnet ACF HUT
Barnet TAC
Battersea ATC
Bethnal Green ACF
Bexleyheath TAC
Blackheath TAC
Brixton TAC
Buckhold Road ACF
Camberwell TAC
Catford ACF
Catford TAC
Cavalry Bks Hounslow
Charlton ACF
Chiswick ACF
Clapham TAC
Crayford ACF
Croydon Reme Workshops
Croydon TAC
Dagenham ACF
Dagenham ATC
Dalston ACF
Defence Geographic Centre Feltham
Ealing Cadet Centre
East Ham Infrastructure
East Ham TAC
East Ham Tri Service Cadet Centre
East Ham Utilities
Edgware TAC
Elmbridge ACF
Elmgrove Road ACF
Eltham ACF
Epsom ACF
Erith ACF
Feltham ACF
Finchley Cadet Centre
Fulham TAC
Grove Park TAC
Hainault ACF
Hammersmith Road WETC includes ACF/ATC
Hampstead TAC
Harrow ATC
Harrow School Combined Cadet Force (CCF)
Heston ATC/ACF Centre
Highgate Old Guard House
Highwood Barracks TAC
HMS Wildfire
Honeypot Lane TAC
Hornsey TAC
Hounslow ACF
Hyde Park Bks
Ilford Joint Cadet Centre
Ilford TAC

Inglis Barracks Mill Hill
Iverna Gardens
Kenley Airfield ATC
Kenley Airfield Enclave ATC
Kensington TAC
Kingston Upon Thames TAC
Lower Site Green Hill ATC
Lytton Grove ACF
Marlpit Lane TAC
Mercator House
Merton ACF
Merton Road TAC
Mile End Road TAC
Mitcham Road TAC
Orpington ACF
Orpington Nissen HUT
Penge ACF
Penge Mt Garage
Permanent Joint Hq Northwood
Queen Mary Bldgs Westminster
RAF Bentley Priory
RAF Kenley
RAF Uxbridge
Regents Park Bks
Rochester Row
Romford TAC
Royal Marine School Of Music Kneller Hall
Saram House and Latimer House Kensington
Sidcup ACF
St Johns Hill TAC
Stoke Newington Joint Cadet Centre
Sutton TAC
TAC Islington
The Keep Kingston
Torquay Street ATC
Tottenham ACF
Twickenham ACF
Uxbridge TAC
Victoria House Westminster
Wallington ACF
Walworth TAC
Wellington Bks
Wembley ACF Building
Wembley ATC Auxiliary HUT
Wembley ATC HUT
Wembley Nissen HUT Rifle Range
West Ruislip/Blenheim Crescent
Whipps Cross TAC
White City Road TAC
Willesden ACF HUT
Wilsons Grammar School
Woolwich Barracks
Worship Street TAC

Gurkhas: Pensions

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to amend the terms and conditions of the Gurkha pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has no reason, or plans, to amend the terms of the Gurkha Pension Scheme (GPS), which is now a closed scheme. New entrants to the Army join Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) 2005. The MOD will continue to operate the present GPS for those 25,000 members in the scheme.

The GPS was designed for retirement in Nepal and provides an income that equates to a good working wage there. Gurkhas who served as members of the GPS were able to retire on an immediate pension after only 15 years service, at an age as young as 33 years. They may therefore receive benefits under the scheme for many years while still of working age. The early age from which Gurkhas take their pension compared with their British counterparts means that over a lifetime most Gurkhas will receive equivalent or better pension value than those in AFPS 75.

The value of the GPS pension has been maintained over time through annual uplifts for inflation in Nepal and by reference to the Indian Central Pay Commission 10-yearly reports. Gurkha pension rates are maintained at levels that are at least double the rates of the Indian Army pension scheme.

Gurkha soldiers today serve on the same terms and conditions of service as the wider Army. Gurkhas who served on or after 1 July 1997 have also been given the option to transfer to the AFPS and many have chosen to do so. Service on or after 1 July 1997 was given a year-for-year value, while service before 1 July 1997 was converted using an actuarial factor to give broadly equivalent pension value in AFPS for that period. This is normal practice across the public sector for those transferring between pension schemes.

Marines: Manpower

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the trained strength of the Royal Marines was *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [289983]

Bill Rammell: In April 1997 the trained regular strength of the Royal Marines including the general, band and career services was 6,060. The most recent trained regular strength figures, as of August 2009, was 6,840.

Met Office

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been *(a)* identified and *(b)* taken to improve the Met Office's business model as a consequence of the conclusions of the Operational Efficiency programme; and if he will make a statement. [289291]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Operational Efficiency programme (OEP) Review of the Met Office has not yet concluded. Work is now under way on the next steps set out for the Met Office review in the OEP final report published in April 2009. Progress will next be reported at the pre-Budget report 2009.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of long-range weather forecasts by the Met Office; and if he will make a statement. [291504]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Met Office is a World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) designated centre for long-range forecasts and carries out assessments of its forecasts using procedures required by WMO. The most recent assessment for the Europe/UK region was carried out in September 2009.

There are limits on predictability at long-range, however seasonal forecasting is a developing science and the Met Office expects substantive improvements to follow from current research programs. Results show that, for the Europe/UK region, forecasts correctly discriminate below or above normal temperature and rainfall levels by about 60 per cent. of the time, with percentages somewhat better for temperature. This reflects state-of-the-art skill for seasonal forecasting in the extratropical regions and is thus similar to that available from other leading WMO centres.

The nature of influences on seasonal conditions means that forecast skill is considerably higher in tropical regions than in the middle latitudes. This has led to use of Met Office global forecasts by many National Met Services worldwide, including in climate vulnerable regions such as parts of Africa.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse has been of the *(a)* operation and *(b)* staffing of the Met Office in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [291665]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Met Office is a trading fund and provides weather and climate services under contract to a range of Government and commercial customers. In 2008-09, revenue from these services, including maintenance of the underpinning infrastructure, amounted to £184.8 million, of which £150.7 million was from Government customers. Staff costs were £84 million. The Met Office returned a dividend of £17.2 million to MOD in relation to this period.

Independent research has shown Met Office services for the public provide excellent value for money and an exceptional return on investment, creating value to the UK economy in excess of £600 million per year.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department provides funding for the Met Office to make weather forecasts; if he will assess the merits of privatising the Met Office; and if he will make a statement. [291666]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Met Office provides crucial support to the armed forces, advising on the impacts of weather and other environmental factors on operations and developing cutting-edge technology to assist with decision-making and provide a battle-winning edge in theatre.

In addition, the MOD provides funding on behalf of Government for the Met Office to deliver the UK's Public Weather Service (PWS).

The asset management and sales strand of the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) is examining a number of assets, including the Met Office, to consider the potential for alternative business models, commercialisation, new market opportunities, and where appropriate, alternatives to public ownership. An update on progress will be provided with the 2009 pre-Budget report.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the merits of linking the amount of funding allocated to the Met Office to the accuracy of its forecasts. [291667]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no current plans to make an assessment of the merits of linking the amount of funding allocated to the Met Office to the accuracy of its forecasts.

Military Aircraft: Crew

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to increase retention and recruitment rates of aircrew personnel in the UK armed forces. [290354]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Currently, within the armed forces, the level of aircrew manning is sufficient to meet the tasks that they are required to undertake. The outflow rates of aircrew are constantly monitored and the inflow is carefully matched to ensure that there are always enough aircrew. There remain, however, a number of specific areas of concern.

Financial retention incentives (FRIs) represent an important mechanism to achieve manning levels. There is an existing £50,000 FRI payable to eligible Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Air Force (RAF) career stream senior officer aircrew with an additional £50,000 payable to RN and RAF career stream senior officer pilots only.

Other recruitment and retention measures include the professional aviator pay spine which enhances the pay and terms and conditions and specialist pay (SP). SP is subject to quinquennial review, as part of a rolling programme.

Generally, across the services, recruitment of aircrew is healthy. However, within the Naval Service various forms of advertisements have been used. For example, the Royal Navy screened a television advertisement campaign for pilots incorporating an online game which simulated an aircrew aptitude test. Within the Army and RAF, recruitment of aircrew is robust and no specifically targeted recruitment initiatives are currently running for aircrew.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to purchase additional helicopters to assist military operations in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* elsewhere. [290374]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Over the next 10 years, the Ministry of Defence intends to invest some £6 billion in its helicopter capability, including procurement of the new Lynx Wildcat, which we confirmed in December last year, and the purchase of additional lift helicopters.

This is a significant investment that will modernise and enhance our helicopter fleet, making it more suitable for extreme conditions such as hot temperatures, high altitudes and challenging operational conditions experienced in Afghanistan. Alongside investment being made from the reserve, this funding is already helping enhance our Merlin, Chinook and Lynx Mk9 fleets making them more suitable for deployment in Afghanistan. This investment will, by May 2010, allow us to double the number of UK battlefield helicopters in Afghanistan and increase the number of flying hours by more than 130 per cent. compared with November 2006. We constantly keep this situation under review.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effect on armed forces running costs of increasing the number of helicopter platforms and reducing the variety of aircraft. [290380]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department recognises the potential cost savings that might result from reducing the number of fleets operated and instead investing more in fewer aircraft types. These benefits include an overall reduction in the fixed costs of delivering our helicopter capability and the opportunity to maximise the return on investment on the training and support arrangements of retained types.

Achieving such rationalisation is a key objective, although we are clear that it must not be achieved at the expense of support to current operations.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours training *(a)* on computer-based simulators and *(b)* in the air are required to qualify pilots for (a) Merlin, (b) Chinook and (c) Puma helicopters. [292327]

Bill Rammell: The table shows the number of hours of simulator and flight training required for each pilot undergoing Operational Conversion Flight (OCF) training for Merlin, Chinook and Puma. Each pilot will also fly additional hours undertaking co-pilot responsibilities, both on the simulator and in the aircraft. Pilots also undergo computer based training and computer aided instruction lectures and briefings as part of Ground School training.

	Dedicated hours: Minutes		*Additional hours: Minutes*		
Aircraft type	*Simulator*	*Aircraft*	*Simulator*	*Aircraft*	*Ground School (days)*
Merlin	58:00	29:15	58:00	23:40	28
Chinook	31:45	56:40	27:15	40:20	20
Puma	50:15	55:00	30:00	10:00	19

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the capacity of RAF Benson to train and retrain helicopter pilots is; and what such capacity exists elsewhere in the UK. [292328]

Bill Rammell: RAF Benson trains pilots on Merlin and Puma Operational Conversion Flights (OCF). The normal throughput of pilots on Merlin OCF is 16 pilots and four refresher pilots per year. However, in order to increase the Merlin force to 35 crews by 2010 the throughput is currently 24 pilots and four refresher pilots undergoing Merlin OCF training per year.

16 pilots and up to 15 refresher pilots undergo Puma OCF training at RAF Benson per year.

Similar training takes place at other air bases across the UK according to helicopter type. Chinook OCF training takes place at RAF Odiham. Sea King pilots undergo conversion training with 848 Naval Air Squadron at RNAS Yeovilton. Army pilots undergo Conversion To Type training onto Lynx, Gazelle and Bell 212 with 671 Squadron and onto Apache with 673 Squadron at Middle Wallop. Apache pilots then go on to Conversion To Role training with the Air Manoeuvre Training and Advisory Team at Wattisham Station.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the merits of using commercial facilities for initial training of military helicopter pilots. [292329]

Bill Rammell: Initial helicopter training for all three Services is provided by the Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS) at RAF Shawbury. A civilian contractor already provides helicopters, flight simulators, air engineering, test flying functions and an element of flying instruction. Military flying instructors are also provided by members of the armed forces. The mix of military and contractor-provided instructors is kept under regular review, taking account of requirements.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what additional investment has been made in the spare parts inventories for *(a)* Merlin and *(b)* Chinook helicopters in 2008-09; and what additional investment is planned for 2009-10. [292331]

Mr. Quentin Davies: An additional Merlin (multi-aircraft) deployable spares pack was delivered in 2008-09 and further investment has been made in additional stock for deployment in Afghanistan, for which deliveries will be completed in 2009-10. Total costs to date are in the region of £18 million.

For Chinook, £19 million has been invested in the procurement of additional spares for support to operations in Afghanistan during FY 2008-09 and the first half of FY 2009-10. Spares purchased by Boeing Ltd. as part of broader support for the Chinook fleet are not included in the above.

NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much aid and how many staff the Government contributes to the NATO Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Estonia. [292500]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The United Kingdom is fully supportive of this Estonian-hosted Cyber Defence initiative and their endeavours in this important area. However, given the need to coordinate Cyber Defence with a number of other Government Departments and Allies, our preferred means of support is by participation in specific mutually beneficial workstreams rather than attach personnel permanently to Estonia.

Both the current Head of the MOD Defence Security and Assurance Service and his predecessor, as well as other Senior Officers, have visited the Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, participated in their conferences, and provided additional assistance to its development.

Nepal: Helicopters

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, (1) what the terms of reference were of the investigation; and what the length and cost was of that investigation; [292129]

(2) what allegations were investigated by the Police Fraud Squad. [292130]

Bill Rammell: Detectives from the Ministry of Defence Police Fraud Squad (MDPFS) Anti Corruption Unit began a criminal investigation in June 2007 and delivered their findings in April 2008.

The MDPFS were tasked to investigate the following:

> Was there any criminality evident in the procurement and gifting of the helicopters, by any UK MOD, overseas personnel, or contractors involved in the procurement process?
>
> Was there any misappropriation of Government funds?
>
> Were the procured helicopters value for money in respect of Government Funds being used for purchase?

The cost of this investigation, which ensued as a result of an inquiry made by the Defence Fraud Analysis Unit in August 2007, was £500, covering travel and expenses incurred, but not salary costs. The costs of salary relating to this investigation are not held centrally and cannot be provided.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, from what country the helicopters were purchased; and through what agency the purchase was organised. [292131]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In August 2002, the Directorate of Overseas Military Activity (DOMA) appointed Crown Agents to act for and on behalf of HM Government. The helicopters were procured from a company in Belarus.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, what conclusion was reached by the investigation on whether *(a)* the new production model MI-17s were delivered to the Royal Nepal Army and *(b)* the mainframe numbers and the numbers in the aircraft logbooks matched. [292132]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The investigation stated that two helicopters were procured and gifted to the Government of Nepal in accordance with the Letter of Agreement, and that the Royal Nepal Army became the end user of the helicopters. The two helicopters were not new production models, but they had been subject to a complete overhaul prior to purchase and subsequent gifting to the Government of Nepal.

The investigation found that there was no evidence to suggest that the mainframe numbers and logbook numbers did not match, and that all logbooks and service records were signed as correct on date of purchase.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, whether the Police Fraud Squad made any recommendations as a result of the investigation. [292133]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: With the investigation concluding that there was no evidence of criminality in the procurement and purchase process of these helicopters, nor any misappropriation or misuse of UK Government funds, the Ministry of Defence police fraud squad made no recommendations.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes there have been to the UK's deployable nuclear capability in each year since 1997. [289987]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since before 1997 the UK has operated a fleet of four ballistic missile submarines. One submarine is on patrol at all times, providing Continuous At Sea Deterrence (CASD). In 1997, the fleet was completing a transition from the Resolution class to the Vanguard class; this transition was complete when the fourth Vanguard class, HMS Vengeance, achieved full operational status in early 2001.

The WE177 free-fall nuclear bomb was withdrawn from service in 1998.

The 1998 Strategic Defence Review concluded that the UK needed a stockpile of fewer than 200 operationally available warheads, a reduction of a third from the maximum of 300 announced by the previous Government. The December 2006 White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994) announced a further reduction in our holdings of operationally available nuclear warheads, in line with the UK's commitment to maintain only the minimum necessary deterrent; we now have fewer than 160 operationally available nuclear warheads.

On 24 September, the Prime Minister announced in his speech to the United Nations Security Council that, subject to technical analysis and progress in multilateral negotiations, when the next class of submarines enters service in the mid-2020s, the aim is for the UK to deliver CASD from a fleet reduced in size from four to three.

Nuclear Weapons: Transport

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many convoys transporting nuclear weapons have used roads in Scotland in the last five years. [289531]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is Ministry of Defence policy not to comment upon the frequency or routes used by the convoys, as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security. Nuclear weapon convoy movements, however, are kept to the minimum necessary to maintain the operational effectiveness of the UK's nuclear deterrent.

Puma Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the upgraded Puma helicopters in combat operations. [290381]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Puma medium support helicopter will be fitted with new engines and modern avionics. Our assessment is that this upgrade will provide a step change in the Puma's capability, providing enhanced performance in the toughest and most demanding conditions.

Radar

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the development of the UK Air Surveillance Command and Control System in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [291972]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Spend on the Concept and Assessment Phases of the UK Air Surveillance Command and Control System (UKASCACS) project in the financial years in question are as follows:

Financial year	*Cost (£ million)*
2006-07	1.054
2007-08	0.739
2008-09	0.498

In 2008 the project was extended and redirected into the Air Command and Control Future Capability (AC2FC). The monies spent previously are contributing to the ongoing development of this project which will provide a more effective capability for UK.

RAF Odiham: Chinook Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many combat-ready Chinook helicopters are stationed at RAF Odiham. [290376]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 26 Chinook helicopters in the Forward Fleet available to the Front Line Command for operational and training purposes. This includes those based at RAF Odiham for training, trials and other UK defence tasks.

I am withholding the number of helicopters we have deployed as release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Royal Artillery Range Hebrides

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what appraisal his Department has made for future uses of the Hebrides Range. [291721]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We expect that the Hebrides Range will continue to provide an important service in support of the development, testing, evaluation and operation of missile systems, unmanned air vehicles and other weapons. Accommodation facilities at the range will also continue to be available to support training activities.

Ukraine: NATO

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has held with his Ukranian counterpart on Ukraine's application to join NATO. [291754]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have had no discussions with my Ukrainian counterpart on NATO membership. Both our predecessors, the right hon. Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) and His Excellency Yekhanurov, met twice in 2008. They discussed the continued UK's strong support to Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and Ukraine's involvement in International Peace Support Operations, including NATO in Afghanistan.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the conclusions of research on the combat effectiveness of miniature unmanned aerial vehicles in conflict zones. [291630]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Franco-British Nuclear Forum

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Franco-British Nuclear Forum remains operational. [289889]

Mr. Kidney: In April 2009 it was agreed between representatives of the British and French Governments that the Franco-British Nuclear Forum had achieved its objectives of exploring aspects and conditions of nuclear energy in the context of the new nuclear build programme in the UK. Therefore, given the high quality of existing bilateral cooperation between the British and French nuclear agencies it was also agreed that the forum should be brought to a formal close.

Renewables Advisory Board

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 709W, on the Renewables Advisory Board, when he expects to finalise the Renewables Advisory Board budget for 2009-10. [290132]

Mr. Kidney: We expect the budget for the Renewables Advisory Board (RAB) to be finally agreed in the early autumn.

I can however confirm that for the three months April to June the spend for RAB was £36,257.

Biofuels

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of progress at EU level on the development of mandatory sustainability criteria for biofuels. [289775]

Mr. Kidney: The EU Renewable Energy Directive, published in June this year, includes mandatory sustainability criteria for biofuels. The directive is subject to a comitology process which will include clarifying key aspects within the sustainability criteria for biofuels; we expect these discussions to take place towards the end of this year. The directive is due to be transposed into national law by December 2010.

Carbon and Energy Saving Trusts

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 399-400W, on the Carbon Trust: public relations, if he will ask the Board of the Carbon Trust to publish details of payments it has made to *(a)* Fishburn Hedges, *(b)* Grayling Political Strategy, *(c)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and *(d)* Citigate Public Affairs in each of the last five years; [290497]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 999W, on the Energy Saving Trust: public relations, if he will ask the board of the Energy Saving Trust to publish details of the payments it has made to *(a)* Positif Politics Ltd., *(b)* Strategen, *(c)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and *(d)* Consolidated Communications in each of the last five years. [290498]

Joan Ruddock: I do not intend to do so. Operational decisions are a matter for the trusts, and the release of these details is therefore a matter for their boards. However, I understand that both Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust would be happy to discuss these issues with the hon. Gentleman, and I suggest that he contact the chair of each trust if he wishes to take up that offer.

Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his latest estimate is of the Government's carbon footprint. [288714]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Government are committed to achieving a reduction in the carbon dioxide emissions from its estate of 12.5 per cent., and from administrative road travel by 15 per cent., both by 2010-11. Progress against these targets is reported annually in the Sustainable Development in Government report. This latest assessment of performance, published in December 2008, shows that emissions from the office estate in 2007-08 were 2,642,623 tonnes of CO_2, and emissions from administrative road vehicles were 148,762 tonnes. These represent a reduction of 6.3 per cent. and 10.3 per cent. respectively against the 1999-2000 baseline year. Departments separately reported data on air travel to the Government Carbon Off-setting Fund (GCOF) to comply with the mandate to off-set all international air travel.

The Government delivery plan for sustainable operations and procurement shows that Government have plans in place to achieve the further reductions required by 2010-11.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to improve cross-departmental working on building a low carbon economy. [289822]

Joan Ruddock: In July the Government published the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, which set out the UK's strategy for making the transition to a low carbon economy. Responsibility for delivering the strategy is shared across Government, and DECC is working closely with other departments to ensure the measures set out in the Transition Plan and associated documents are delivered effectively.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the reduction in carbon dioxide emissions attributable to from the Carbon Trust's local authority carbon management programme. [289878]

Joan Ruddock: Based on implementation so far, the Carbon Trust estimates that the programme has helped local authorities to save 1.6Mt CO_2 on a lifetime basis.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from the National Insulation Association on changes to the Carbon Emission Reduction Target scheme and specification of non-physical methods of emission reduction. [291772]

Joan Ruddock: Government consulted earlier this year on amendments to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. In taking final decisions, we took account of a broad range of views, including those of the National Insulation Association. Amendments came into force in July 2009 acting to increase the target by 20 per cent., increase the innovation ring-fence, remove non-retail CFL schemes as eligible and provide up-front scores for behavioural measures, namely real time displays and home energy advice. Given that behavioural measures were new to CERT we capped their promotion at 2 per cent. of a suppliers target and required they only be deployed following a direct request from a householder.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the carbon emissions reduction scheme in *(a)* 2002 to 2005, *(b)* 2005 to 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [291773]

Mr. Kidney: The primary aim of the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT, 2008-11) is to reduce carbon emissions in the household sector to contribute to national and international climate change targets. CERT and its predecessor the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC, 2002-08) has shown to be very effective, with EEC saving some 3.2 million tonnes of CO_2 annually by 2008 and CERT expected to add a further 5.6 million tonnes of CO_2 savings by 2011. This mechanism has also proved to be very effective at getting measures into homes—for instance, some six million households have benefited from subsidised or free insulation since 2002, one million of these in the first year of CERT alone. Independent analysis has also demonstrated that this has been achieved cost-effectively—through EEC householders receiving ongoing benefits in the form of reduced energy bills and increased comfort with a net present value of £8.2 billion.

Carbon Emissions: Developing Countries

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Prime Minister's announcement of 26 June 2009 of a $100 billion per year fund to help developing countries reduce their emissions, what proportion of this fund the Government expects to contribute; and from which budget this funding will be made. [289687]

Joan Ruddock: The UK wants all countries except the least developed to contribute to climate financing. The UK is arguing for an objective, transparent way of working out which countries should contribute using criteria such as ability to pay (GDP) and responsibility (emissions).

We expect a significant portion of the $100 billion figure to be generated by a reformed and expanded global carbon market. Revenues generated by the carbon market are heavily dependent on the mitigation ambition of a global deal, so we are simultaneously pushing for a high ambition deal at the Copenhagen summit in December.

The UK has proposed that some climate finance can come from official development assistance where it clearly meets both poverty reduction and adaptation or mitigation objectives. However, in the UK we will limit such expenditure to up to 10 per cent. of our official development assistance. We are working towards this limit being agreed internationally.

The rest would come from a combination of new and additional sources of finance. The UK would be willing to support the approach proposed by Norway, which is an 'automatic' mechanism for generating predictable and credible flows of international public finance by auctioning a small proportion of international emissions allowances.

A decision has not been made about which budget this funding will be made from. The UK has pledged to pay its fair share of climate finance, but the exact proportion the UK Government expect to contribute are contingent on the deal at Copenhagen.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the Prime Minister's announcement of 26 June 2009 of a $100 billion per year fund to help developing countries reduce their emissions, whether he expects to achieve a global agreement on this proposal *(a)* before the Copenhagen summit and *(b)* at the Copenhagen summit. [289688]

Joan Ruddock: The aim of the Prime Minister's announcement was to move the debate from hypothetical figures to negotiation on actual mitigation actions and contributions. The UK wants all countries except the least developed to contribute to climate financing. The $100 billion figure includes carbon market revenues, up to 10 per cent. of official development assistance and a combination of new and additional sources of finance; the UK is willing to support an 'automatic' mechanism auctioning a small proportion of international emissions allowances, as proposed by Norway.

The UK has been working towards a global agreement on the principles set out in the Prime Minister's announcement, using all available international negotiations and near-negotiations fora. The initiative has enabled the UK to show leadership and provided an opportunity to push for strong progress on climate finance. The international response has been positive, both from developing countries such as The Maldives and Rwanda, as well developed countries such as Australia. Recently, the Prime Minister was invited by President Obama to give a presentation on the UK initiative at the Major Economies Forum. We will continue to work closely with EU and international colleagues in the coming months in order to reach a global agreement on finance at the Copenhagen summit.

Carbon Emissions: Households

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage households to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. [291534]

Mr. Kidney: On 11 September 2008 my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a major boost to our energy efficiency programme, building on an already ambitious package of measures.

The announcement included a significant increase in the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) obligation on suppliers, demanding additional energy supplier investment of some £560 million in household energy efficiency—taking overall supplier investment to almost £3.4 billion over the three years of the scheme to 2011. Overall, we expect the scheme to benefit around 6 million households with significant energy saving measures such as insulation, while millions more will benefit from energy efficient lights, high efficiency appliances and energy saving devices.

In addition, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a new Community Energy Savings Programme which is now in operation delivering an estimated £350 million of measures to reduce the carbon emissions and fuel bills of 90,000 households in vulnerable low-income communities.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change also grant funds the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to support its work reducing carbon emissions from the household sector. Through the Government funded ACT ON CO_2 advice line and regional one-stop shop advice centres, the EST works directly with consumers to help them reduce their carbon footprint with respect to energy, waste, water and transport. In 2008-09 the EST advised over 1.3 million consumers through their advice centres.

Carbon Reduction Commitment

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the amount of revenue which will arise from the sale of allowances through the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme in each of the next five years. [289892]

Joan Ruddock: There will be no net revenue raised by the sale of Carbon Reduction Commitment allowances because all the money collected in the sale will be returned to participants according to how well they reduce their emissions.

Carbon Sequestration

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Statement of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 382, on coal and carbon capture and storage, how much he estimates the proposed financial mechanism will raise in each year up to 2020. [289751]

Mr. Kidney: The amount that will be raised under the levy each year will depend on a number of factors including the rate at which projects come forward, the number of projects supported at any time and the cost of each project, which will vary dependent upon a number of factors including technology type, installed capacity, operational performance and location.

The impact assessment which is part of our consultation, 'A Framework for Cleaner Coal', published on 17 June provides an estimate of the costs of CCS demonstration under an illustrative scenario up to 2032.

The scenario is based on up to four CCS demonstration projects, one of 300MW and three of 450MW capacity receiving support for up to 15 years. The total cost of support that would be provided from the levy is estimated to be £5.2 – £9.0 billion.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Government has spent on developing carbon capture and storage technology to date. [289851]

Mr. Kidney: Between 1997 and 2009 the Government spent £77.9 million on the research and development of Carbon Abatement Technologies, including Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Spend for CCS technologies only is not available.

This comprises spending under the UK's Clean Coal Programme administered by the former Department of Trade and Industry, the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), the UK Research Councils and the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) Carbon Abatement Technology Demonstration Programme.

Carbon Trust

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget of the Carbon Trust was in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; what it is planned to be in 2010-11; and how much of that funding was from his Department in each year. [289722]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Trust is a private company and receives income from a number of sources.

The amounts grant funded by DECC (and previously by DEFRA and by DTI/BERR) to the Carbon Trust in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows:

£ million

	DEFRA/DECC	*DTI/BERR*
2007-08	90.7	0.73
2008-09	89.063	0.97

In 2009-10, the Carbon Trust will receive up to £84.53 million in core grant funding from DECC. The trust will also receive up to £121.6 million of additional funding in 2009-10 specifically to deliver low interest loans to small and medium enterprises and public sector bodies (through Salix Finance), as announced in Budget 2009. The trust may also receive further funding for specific activities from the low carbon investment funding announced in Budget 2009.

The trust's budget for 2010-11 has not been finalised as this forms part of DECC's wider decisions on funding allocations.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding the Carbon Trust has provided for *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* NHS bodies, *(c)* higher and further education institutions and *(d)* other public bodies in (i) Stoke-on-Trent and (ii) North Staffordshire in the last 12 months. [291802]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Trust has worked with a range of public sector organisations in Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire including schools, local authorities and NHS organisations to provide carbon management and energy efficiency advice.

The Carbon Trust has advised me that it is not possible to provide a funding breakdown for these specific locations.

Climate Change

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what methodology his Department used to *(a)* establish that adopting its proposals to the UN framework convention on climate change would restrict temperature rises to below two degrees Celsius and *(b)* calculate that expenditure of US$100 billion per annum was required to tackle climate change globally. [291397]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: We have used the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report as a primary reference for relating global emissions to our 2°C goal. We have also extensively used the Stern Review. In addition the Government are funding a major research programme on the science of climate change called the AVOID programme. AVOID is a DECC/DEFRA funded research programme led by the Met Office in a consortium with the Walker Institute, Tyndall Centre and Grantham Institute. For further information see:

http://www.avoid.uk.net

We have drawn on analysis in various independent reports to calculate the scale of finance needed to tackle climate change in developing countries. The most recent, by Project Catalyst (a philanthropically funded project to develop analysis for the UNFCCC), put the total at €65-100 billion per year on average from 2010-2020 (€55-80 billion mitigation; €10-20 billion adaptation). The figure that the Prime Minister announced in a speech on 26 June 2009 of around $100 billion by 2020 is within this range. However, we also recognised that we must distinguish between research studies and the actual finance that countries might need for their low carbon and climate resilient growth and development. Therefore, we have proposed $100 billion a year by 2020 as a working figure for the world to focus on.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of changes to average global temperature since 2000. [292447]

Joan Ruddock: Observations collated at the Met Office Hadley Centre and the university of East Anglia Climate Research Unit indicate that global average near-surface temperatures during each of the years 2000 to 2008 inclusive, relative to the late 20th century (1961 to 1990) average of 14.00°C, were: +0.24, +0.40, +0.45, +0.46, +0.43, +0.48, +0.42, +0.40, and +0.31°C. Thus, the average for this period was 0.40°C warmer than that in the late 20th century.

Eight of the 10 warmest years on record all occurred between 2000 and 2008. It should be noted that short timescale (year-to-year to decadal) natural fluctuations in temperature are superimposed upon the long-term underlying warming trend.

Climate Change: Bangladesh

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will seek to place on the agenda of the forthcoming Copenhagen Conference the subject of assistance to Bangladesh to cope with the effects of climate change. [291271]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* In the climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December the UK Government will be striving to ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable nations, like Bangladesh, receive the help they need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has called for significant climate finance for developing countries to be part of the Copenhagen deal, with a significant proportion of public finance going to support adaptation for the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

Climate Change: Conferences

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to lead the Government's delegation to the UN Framework Conference on Climate Change negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009; what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on steps to secure an international agreement at the Copenhagen conference; and if he will make a statement. [291398]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change will lead the UK delegation when he goes to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen this December. Getting a deal at Copenhagen is a priority for the Government and the Prime Minister has said that if it is necessary to secure agreement in Copenhagen, he will personally go to achieve it.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Ministers and officials from his Department participated in the UN Secretary General's high level event on climate change in New York on 22 September 2009; and if he will post on his departmental website each paper distributed at the meeting. [291621]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, supported by two DECC officials, participated in the UN Climate Change summit.

All papers distributed at the summit can be found on the UN website:

http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climatechange/lang/en/pages/2009summit

Climate Change: Publications

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 66WS, on the road to Copenhagen (public awareness), how many copies of the pamphlet are to be printed; how those copies are being distributed; and what the cost of the preparation and publication programme is. [289598]

Joan Ruddock: I can confirm that the overall cost of the Road to Copenhagen leaflet was approximately £34,000 exclusive of VAT. This includes design, typesetting, printing and distribution of 46,000 copies. The leaflet is being distributed in hard copy or electronic format to a range of outlets, including educational establishments, public libraries, citizens advice bureaux, trade unions, business-related outlets, MPs and other key stakeholders.

Climate Change: South East

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the likely effects of climate change on *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* the South East in the next 10 years. [289428]

Joan Ruddock: In 2005, the regional climate change partnerships, working with the UK Climate Impacts Programme, published 'Measuring Progress'. The report assessed the impacts of climate change by region, including the East and the South East, and included some indicative assessments of the impacts on activities from climate change.

On 18 June 2009, the Government published the latest UK Climate Projections. These projections show the potential changes in climate for the UK for a range of probabilities, climate variables and emissions scenarios. Results can give detail down to a 25 kilometre square grid. This data are freely available to all to make their own assessments of the likely effects of climate change. To support organisations in using the projections, the Government are providing a training package, Projections in Practice, which includes a programme of events in each region. Regional events have been organised in coordination with regional climate change partnerships. The events in the East of England will be held from 12-16 October 2009, and the events in the South East of England are from 2-6 November 2009.

Looking to the future, work has now begun on the first statutory national Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), to report by January 2012. All regions will have an important input.

Alongside this work, the Government have now begun the Adaptation Economic Assessment, which will analyse the high level economic costs and benefits of adapting to climate change in the UK. The project will include information by English region, but not by individual county boundary. It is also due to report in 2012.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to assist people in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* the South East to adapt their domestic circumstances to take account of the effects of climate change. [289443]

Joan Ruddock: The aim of the Government's Adapting to Climate Change Programme is to help people adapt to the effects of climate change by providing robust evidence on the effects of climate change and embedding adaptation into policies, plans and programmes. The programme seeks to achieve this by building capacity in organisations who are the most able to take long term adaptation decisions. This includes local Government via mechanisms such as National Indicator 188—Planning to Adapt to Climate Change—within the local Government performance framework to enable them to support individuals to adapt to future climate changes through local programmes.

On 18 June 2009, the Government published the latest UK Climate Projections. These projections show the potential changes in climate for the UK for a range of probabilities, climate variables and emissions scenarios. This data are freely available to all to make their own assessments of the likely effects of climate change. To support organisations in using the projections, the Government are providing a training package, Projections in Practice, which started in July and runs until March 2010. The programme includes a series of national events for specific sectors and also includes, from September, a programme of events in each region, including the South East and East of England.

To support adaptation locally and regionally, the Government have established a local and regional programme managed by a board of key local and regional organisations. The South East regional partnership, Climate South East, is represented on the board, as are regional climate change partnerships as a whole. The board manages a small programme of projects to develop guidance and tools to help local authorities, regional climate change partnerships and others to support communities to take account of the effects of climate change.

The Climate Change Partnership for the East of England has been working closely with representatives from Hertfordshire. It has had particular advice and support from the sustainability team at Hertfordshire county council in shaping and defining the partnership and its work programme activities.

Further information on the board and the Government's Adapting to Climate Change Programme is located on the Programme website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation

Coal Fired Power Stations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's estimate is of the annual level of emissions of (i) carbon dioxide, (ii) nitrous oxide and (iii) sulphur hexafluoride of the proposed new coal-fired units at Kingsnorth. [289875]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has made no such estimate.

E.ON estimate that for 12TWh of electricity, the most likely production maximum, 8.6MTe of CO_2 would be produced. No estimate has been made for the annual level of emissions of nitrous oxide or sulphur hexafluoride.

Coal: Industrial Health and Safety

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many coal health compensation claims have been made by each solicitors' firm on behalf of claimants resident in Bassetlaw constituency who are potentially eligible for a services claim. [292004]

Mr. Kidney: The number of coal health compensation schemes that were eligible for services claim is shown in the following table as at 4 October 2009. The figures include services claim made under chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and vibration white finger.

Claimants' Representatives	*Location*	*Number of claims*	*Claim eligible for services*	*Claim eligible for services that have been settled*
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	AMS (UDM claims only)	500	260	254
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	Sheffield	3	2	2
Atherton and Godfrey Solicitors	Doncaster	1	0	0
Atteys	Retford	136	105	103
Atteys	Rotherham	46	41	41
Avalon Solicitors (ceased trading)	Warrington	5	1	1
Bakewells	Derby	1	0	0
Banner Jones	Chesterfield	3	3	3
Barber Cartain Solicitors (ceased trading)	Manchester	1	0	0
Bell Dallman and Co.	Doncaster	4	4	4
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	158	73	73
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (UDM only)	569	247	243
BHP Law	Belmont	8	7	7
Branton Bridge	Manchester	4	4	4
BRM Solicitors	Chesterfield (UDM claims only)	1	1	1
Browell Smith and Co.	Newcastle upon Tyne	34	22	21
BurroughsDay Solicitors	Bristol	3	2	2
Colemans Solicitors	Manchester	6	2	2
Corries York	York	13	6	6
Davis Blank Furniss	Hadfield	1	0	0
Davis Blank Furniss	Manchester	4	4	4
Dean Thomas and Co. Solicitors	Worksop	3	1	1
Farleys Solicitors	Burnley	4	2	2
Flint Bishop and Barnett Solicitors	Derby	1	0	0
Foy and Co.	—	1	1	1
Foys Solicitors	Worksop	43	36	35
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	8	8	8
Gorvin Smith Fort Solicitors	Stockport	9	6	6
Grainger Appleyard and Fleming	Doncaster	1	1	1

Claimants' Representatives	*Location*	*Number of claims*	*Claim eligible for services*	*Claim eligible for services that have been settled*
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	610	462	452
Hamers Solicitors	Hull	[illegible]	1	1
Hickmotts Solicitors	Rotherham	23	16	16
Holmes and Hills Solicitors	Great Dunmow	1	0	0
Hopkins	Eden Court, Mansfield	97	84	84
Hopkins	Mansfield	1	1	1
Hopkins	—	4	1	1
Hugh James	Cardiff	3	3	3
Ilett and Clark Solicitors	Nottingham	4	3	3
Ingrams Solicitors	Hessle (VWF only)	3	2	2
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	98	77	77
Keeble Hawson	Doncaster	39	32	31
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	Sheffield	67	46	46
Kenyon Son and Craddock	32 South Parade	1	1	1
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	163	113	110
Kingslegal	Cardiff	1	0	0
Lloyd Green Solicitors	Glasgow (UDM only)	1	0	0
Lopian Wagner Solicitors	Manchester	4	0	0
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle upon Tyne	3	2	2
Marrons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	1	0	0
McArdles Solicitors	Hartlepool	3	0	0
Meloy Whittle Robinson	Preston	10	4	4
Mincoffs Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	3	2	2
Morrish and Co. Solicitors	Leeds	4	3	3
Mortons Solicitors	Sunderland	12	1	1
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	13	9	9
Moss Solicitors	Moss UDM Claims Only	501	263	252
O. H. Parsons and Partners Solicitors	London	199	161	159
Oxley and Coward Solicitors	Rotherham	37	32	32
Pannone and Partners Solicitors	Manchester	4	3	3
Parker Rhodes Solicitors	Rotherham	1	1	1
Pinto Potts Solicitors	Aldershot	1	0	0
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	239	168	167
Richard J. Knaggs and Co.	Redcar	2	2	2
Robinson and Murphy Solicitors	Newcastle	1	1	1
Robinson King Solicitors (ceased trading)	Stockport	19	19	19
Russell Jones and Walker Solicitors	Sheffield	2	2	2
Saffmans Solicitors	Leeds	9	6	5
Sedgwick Phelan and Partners	Middleton, Manchester	1	1	1
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	Doncaster	16	11	11
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	4	2	2
Simpson Millar Solicitors	Leeds	3	3	3
Stanton Croft Estate Agents and Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	2	0	0
Stuart Bell and Associates	Worksop	143	112	112
The Quigley Partnership (ceased trading)	Bolton (do not use)	1	1	0
The Smith Partnership	Derby	1	0	0
Thompsons Solicitors	Manchester	2	2	1
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	26	22	22
Thompsons Solicitors	Nottingham	1	0	0
Thornleys	Huddersfield	2	1	1
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	29	10	10
Towells Solicitors	Wakefield	40	31	29
Tracey Barlow Furniss and Co.	Retford	1	1	1
Tracey Barlow Furniss and Co.	Worksop	9	3	3
Twigg Farnell Solicitors (ceased trading)	Rotherham	4	4	4
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	1,009	698	683
Wake Smith and Tofields Solicitors	Sheffield	6	3	3
Walker and Co. Solicitors	Rotherham	1	1	0
Watson and Brown Solicitors	South Shields	1	0	0

Claimants' Representatives	*Location*	*Number of claims*	*Claims eligible for services*	*Claims eligible for services that have been settled*
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle upon Tyne	131	114	113
Total		3,198	3,380	3,326

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger coal health compensation claims submitted in (i) Bassetlaw and (ii) the UK have been disputed. [292005]

Mr. Kidney: The number of claims for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) claims with a schedule 20 dispute and Vibration White Finger (VWF) claims with a formal dispute under the terms of the Claims Handling Agreements in Bassetlaw and the UK is shown in the following table as at 4 October 2009:

	Bassetlaw constituency	*Other UK constituencies*
COPD	33	1865
VWF	27	1137
Total	60	3002

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Smith *v.* Manchester awards have been made to residents of Bassetlaw constituency represented by each solicitors' firm. [292006]

Mr. Kidney: The number of awards for Smith *v.* Manchester for Vibration White Finger (VWF) under the Coal Health Compensation schemes made to former coal miners and their families at Bassetlaw constituency broken down by claimants' representative is shown in the following table as at 4 October 2009.

We are unable to provide the awards for Smith *v.* Manchester paid under Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease scheme as these figures are included within the schedule 11 calculations under the term of the Claims Handling Agreement, and it is not possible to isolate them.

Claimants' representative	*Location*	*Number of VWF claims awarded Smith v. Manchester*
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	AMS UDM claims only	168
Atteys	Retford	37
Atteys	Rotherham	32
Avalon Solicitors—Ceased trading	Warrington	1
Bell Dallman and Co	Doncaster	4
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	53
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (UDM only)	179
BHP LAW	Belmont	4
Branton Bridge	Manchester	4
BRM Solicitors	Chesterfield—UDM claims only	1
Browell Smith & Co	Newcastle Upon Tyne	7
Colemans Solicitors	Manchester	1
Corries York	York	3
Flint Bishop & Barnett Solicitors	Derby	1
Foy & Co	—	1
Foys Solicitors	Worksop	19
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	7
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	244
Hickmotts Solicitors	Rotherham	14
Hopkins	—	1
Hopkins	Eden Court, Mansfield	34
Hopkins	Mansfield	1
Ilett & Clark Solicitors	Nottingham	2
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	49
Keeble Hawson	Doncaster	4
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	Sheffield	31
Kidd & Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	58
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle Upon Tyne	1
Molloy Whittle Robinson	Preston	1
Morrish & Co Solicitors	Leeds	1
Mortons Solicitors	Sunderland	1
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	5
Moss Solicitors	Moss UDM claims only	145
O. H. Parsons & Partners Solicitors	London	101
Oxley & Coward Solicitors	Rotherham	11
Pannone & Partners Solicitors	Manchester	2
Parker Rhodes Solicitors	Rotherham	1
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	98
Robinson King Solicitors—Ceased trading	Stockport	6
Russell Jones & Walker Solicitors	Sheffield	2
Saffmans Solicitors	Leeds	3
Shaw & Co Solicitors	Doncaster	11
Shaw & Co Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	2
Stuart Bell & Associates	Worksop	52
Thompsons Solicitors	Manchester	1
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	12
Thornleys	Huddersfield	1
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	2
Towells Solicitors	Wakefield	15
Tracey Barlow Furniss & Co	Worksop	3
Twigg Farnell Solicitors—Ceased trading	Rotherham	2
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	349
Wake Smith & Tofields Solicitors	Sheffield	4
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle Upon Tyne	83
Total		1,895

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Smith *v.* Manchester awards have been paid to claimants represented by the 50 solicitors' firms which have submitted the highest number of claims under the coal health compensation scheme. [292007]

Mr. Kidney: The number of Smith *v.* Manchester awards made to claimants represented by the 50 claimants' representative who have submitted the highest number of claims under the coal health compensation scheme is shown in the following table as at 4 October 2009.

We are unable to provide the awards for Smith *v.* Manchester paid under chronic obstructive pulmonary disease scheme as these figures are included within the schedule 11 calculations under the term of the Claims Handling Agreement, and it is not possible to isolate them.

Claimants' representative	*Location*	*Claims awarded Smith v. Manchester*
Browell Smith and Co	Newcastle upon Tyne	4,424
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	3,293
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	3,841
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	2,998
Hugh James	Cardiff	2,523
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	2,769
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (UDM only)	1,857
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle upon Tyne	2,274
Thompsons Solicitors	Edinburgh (Scottish claims only)	1,078
Towells Solicitors	Wakefield	1,726
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	AMS (UDM claims only)	1,414
Moss Solicitors	Moss (UDM claims only)	1,436
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	1,276
Thompsons Solicitors	—	778
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	1,406
Atteys	Rotherham	1,295
O. H. Parsons and Partners Solicitors	London	937
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	790
Saffmans Solicitors	Leeds	983
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	785
Kingslegal	Cardiff	429
Latham and Co. Solicitors	Leicester	814
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	Doncaster	835
Conies Solicitors	Glasgow (Scottish claims only)	562
McLeish Carswell	Glasgow (Scottish claims only)	174
Oxley and Coward Solicitors	Rotherham	526
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	Llanelli	272
Mortons Solicitors	Sunderland	364
T. S. Edwards and Son Solicitors	Ystrad Mynach	410
Hickmotts Solicitors	Rotherham	594
Morisons Solicitors	Edinburgh (Scottish claims only)	378
Thompson and Co. Solicitors	Sunderland	343
Matrons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	254
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	450
Hopkins	Eden Court, Mansfield	298
Nieloy Whittle Robinson	Preston	221
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	Sheffield	175
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	181
Furley Page	Canterbury	294
Corries York	York	278
Gabb and Co.	Powys	236
Russell Young Solicitors (do not use)	Newcastle upon Tyne	0
Endlars Solicitors	86A Bury Old Road	123
Keeble Hawson	Doncaster	119
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	230
Gorvin Smith Fort Solicitors	Stockport	114
Branton Bridge	Manchester	104
Mincoffs Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	91
Ross Harper Solicitors	Glasgow (Scottish claims only)	7
BHP Law	Belmont	113
Total		46,872

Committee on Climate Change

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what performance targets have been set for the Chief Executive of the Committee on Climate Change. [289752]

Joan Ruddock: The performance targets set for the chief executive of the Committee on Climate Change, in respect of 2008-09 and 2009-10, are in summary:

2008-09: Provide high quality analysis to support CCC decision making; deliver advice on carbon budgets within statutory deadline based on a robust analytical framework and evidence base; develop a medium term vision through a three-year business plan for sustained high impact of the CCC; effectively maintain relationships across Whitehall and with external stakeholders; work closely with CCC members to provide support and agree advice; ensure that the work programme is on track and within budget; ensure that human resources are used to their full potential.

2009-10: Deliver a high quality progress report to Parliament in Autumn 2009 which impacts Government strategy for delivery of carbon budgets; deliver analytically robust review of UK aviation emissions setting out appropriate contribution from aviation to meeting the UK's long term target by December 2009; agree with the Committee a forward work plan for the period October 2009-December 2010; support the establishment of the Adaptation sub-Committee; play a leading role in representing the Committee externally; maintain effective communications with external stakeholders; work closely with CCC members to provide support and agree advice; ensure that the work programme is on track and within budget; ensure that human resources are used to their full potential.

Departmental Administration

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many members his Department's Delivery and Strategy High Level Board has; and on what dates the Board has met since his Department was established. [289643]

Joan Ruddock: The Delivery and Strategy High-Level (DASH) Board has 17 full members covering eight Government departments with an interest in energy and climate change issues.

Since DECC was established in October 2008, the Board has met eight times:

17 October 2008
6 November 2008
12 December 2008
29 January 2009
19 March 2009
7 May 2009
18 June 2009
23 July 2009

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289509]

Joan Ruddock: On the Department's key public campaign, ACT ON CO_2 we have spent approximately £1.6 million on newspaper advertising, between September 2008 and July 2009. The following tables outline spend by newspaper title. Figures are quoted exclusive of VAT.

September 2008 to March 2009

	Totals (£)
Associated Newspapers Ltd	396,258
Daily Mail	130,459
Mail on Sunday	265,799
Guardian Media Group	36,100
The Guardian	19,400
The Observer	16,700
Independent Newspapers UK Ltd	15,044
The Independent	8,994
The Independent on Sunday	6,050
IPC Media	74,512
TV Times Magazine	19,557
What's on TV	54,955
News International	527,900
News of the World	144,621
The Sun	138,589
The Sunday Times	142,608
The Times	102,082
Northern & Shell	139,682
Daily Express	65,895
Daily Star	25,240
Daily Star on Sunday	4,500
Sunday Express	44,047
Telegraph Group Limited	69,100
Daily Telegraph	50,780
Sunday Telegraph	18,320
The Publishing Consultancy	10,094
Take a Break	10,094
Trinity PLC	188,784
Daily Mirror	77,463
Sunday Mirror	100,821
Sunday People	10,500
Totals	1,457,474

June and July 2009

	Totals (£)
Associated Newspapers Ltd	33,000
Mail on Sunday	33,000
Guardian Media Group	6,400
The Guardian	6,400
Independent Newspapers UK Ltd	3,800
The Independent	3,800
IPC Media	26,238
What's on TV	26,238
News International	41,532
The Sun	30,332
The Times	11,200
Totals	110,970

Details of DECC's recruitment advertising is as follows.

		£
Adverts	*Ratecard cost*	*Cost to DECC*[1]
Senior Policy Leads 11553/Policy Advisers 11556		
Guardian (Wednesday/Saturday)	12,862.50	11,576.25
Public Sector—Management		
Half Page Teaser—The Environmentalist + Editorial + Button	9,420.00	4,250.00
8x10 Colour Taster in *the Telegraph*	10,000.00	7,000.00
8x8 Colour Taster in *the Times* (Tuesday/Friday)	4,500.00	4,000.00
Online Premium Listings	950.00	855.00
Online Premium Listings	950.00	855.00
Online—Keyword Sponsor for one week—"Policy"	650.00	585.00
GGAN Widget 1 month	650.00	585.00
Behavioural Targeting content/keyword activated 1 month	1,000.00	900.00
www.iema.net	0.00	0.00
W4MP	0.00	0.00
(Diverse Employers)—jobsbuster.com	400.00	375.00
(Diverse Employers)—jobsbuster.com	400.00	375.00
Stonewall Online	200.00	200.00
Stonewall Online	200.00	200.00
Thepinkpaper Online	250.00	250.00
Thepinkpaper Online	250.00	250.00

Adverts	Ratecard cost	£ Cost to DECC[1]
Disability Now	500.00	500.00
Disability Now	500.00	500.00
environmentjob.co.uk/carbonjobs	149.00	149.00
environmentjob.co.uk/carbonjobs	149.00	149.00
Londonjobs	350.00	350.00
Londonjobs	350.00	350.00
		34,254.25

10% off *Guardian*

Adverts	Cost to DECC[1] (£)
Policy Manager (Grade 7) 11554 / Senior Policy Advisers 11555 (SEO)	
Guardian (Wednesday/Saturday)	11,576.25
Public Sector—Management	
8x8 Colour Taster in *the Times* (Tuesday/Friday)	4,000.00
Guardian Online Premium Listing—Grade 7	855.00
Guardian Online Premium Listing—SEO	855.00
Online—Keyword Sponsor for one week—"Policy"	585.00
GGAN Widget 1 month	585.00
Behavioural Targeting content/keyword activated 1 month	900.00
Homepage MPU 1 Week	1,170.00
www.iema.net	0.00
W4MP	0.00
(Diverse Employers)— jobsbuster.com	375.00
(Diverse Employers)— jobsbuster.com	375.00
Stonewall Online	200.00
Stonewall Online	200.00
Thepinkpaper Online	250.00
Thepinkpaper Online	250.00
Disability Now	500.00
Disability Now	500.00
environmentjob.co.uk/carbonjobs	149.00
environmentjob.co.uk/carbonjobs	149.00
Londonjobs	350.00
Londonjobs	350.00
	24,174.25

[1] 10 per cent. off *Guardian*

Departmental Air Conditioning

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity was consumed by his Department's air conditioning system in the last 12 months. [289882]

Joan Ruddock: The Department meters and monitors total electricity consumption, but the electrical consumption of the Air Conditioning cannot be monitored separately because it uses many different elements of the building's Mechanical and Electrical infrastructure and so no separate records are kept.

However, the Department is exploring the use of an auto monitoring of the electrical consumption for the individual floors (both essential and none essential supplies), which will include individual items of plant such as Chillers, pumps, lifts etc. This new system may be operational within a month.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 704W, on departmental reorganisation, when he expects the second phase of his Department's staff moves into 3 Whitehall Place to *(a)* begin and *(b)* be completed. [290128]

Joan Ruddock: The Department's second phase of staff moves is expected to begin in November 2009 and be completed in December 2009.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 704W, on departmental reorganisation, how many of his Department's London-based staff were based in premises other than 3 Whitehall Place on completion of the first phase of moves of his Department's staff. [290129]

Joan Ruddock: The number of London-based staff based in premises other than 3 Whitehall Place on completion of the first phase of moves was approximately 25.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 704W, on departmental reorganisation, how many staff moved into 3 Whitehall Place as part of his Department's first phase of staff moves. [290130]

Joan Ruddock: The Department moved approximately 973 staff into 3 Whitehall Place as part of the first phase of staff moves.

Departmental Buildings: Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) the Energy Saving Trust and (ii) the Carbon Trust. [289841]

Joan Ruddock: Neither the Carbon Trust (CT) nor the Energy Savings Trust (EST) are required to have display energy certificates or associated advisory reports for public buildings. However, as would be expected, both CT and EST have taken steps to identify the energy performance of their buildings.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [287068]

Joan Ruddock: Information on the numbers of civil servants from this department that are *(a)* on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week are not held centrally and details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department supports a range of flexible working methods including, job sharing and working from home.

Departmental Conferences

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what conferences his Department is planning to hold in each of the next 12 months. [289893]

Joan Ruddock: The conferences we are currently planning to hold in each of the next 12 months are listed in the following table. Officials in my Department attend and speak at many conferences organised by others and we do hold a wide range of other events to engage with the public and specific stakeholders in order to inform and further the work of the Department.

	Conference
2009	
October	Low Carbon Buildings Programme Extension Launch Event
12 October	DECC 1st Anniversary Stakeholder Reception
12 to 14 October	Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum
28 to 29	EU-China Near Zero Emissions Coal (NZEC) initiative phase I final conference 28 to 29 October, Beijing. Co-hosted by DECC, the European Commission and China Ministry of Science and Technology
October to November	Eight to 10 Low Carbon Buildings Programme Extension regional Roadshows
End of October	Launch event for a European Investment Bank intermediate lending scheme for renewables
Early November	DECC stakeholder discussion series
2010	
March	Industry seminar on security of supply issues following publication of this year's Energy Markets Outlook

Departmental Contracts

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 306W, on departmental public relations, what the value of his Department's contract with Kreab Gavin Anderson *(a)* was in 2008-09 and *(b)* is in 2009-10. [289535]

Joan Ruddock: The Kreab Gavin Anderson contract is for up to £320,000 for the period 9 May 2008 to 31 March 2010 inclusive. The contract is to provide expert advice on the impact of proposed policy changes on renewable finance and investment prospects, as well as a range of briefing, seminars, meetings and wider awareness raising with investors and trade media, on developments in renewable energy policy.

Departmental Correspondence

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether representatives of his Department have had correspondence with *(a)* Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd, *(b)* Eastern Petroleum Corporation Ltd, *(c)* African Minerals Ltd, *(d)* Landis+Gyr and *(e)* Energy Enterprises Ltd since the creation of his Department. [289933]

Mr. Kidney: Since the creation of DECC there has been no correspondence between representatives of my Department and Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd, Eastern Petroleum Corporation Ltd; African Minerals Ltd or Energy Enterprises Ltd.

Landis and Gyr have submitted written material on smart metering to the Department.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289742]

Joan Ruddock: My noble Friend the Minister of State is the Department's Value for Money Minister. The Department is committed to reforming public services to improve services for the citizen and we work closely with colleagues in the centre of Government on this important agenda. We do not have a public sector reform team but our Board support team reports on value for money as part of their responsibility.

Departmental Energy Efficiency

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps are being taken to promote energy efficiency in his Department. [289523]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been working with Carbon Trust to develop and deliver a wide-reaching energy reduction and carbon management programme focusing on our London HQ. A number of significant changes have already been made, with visible reductions in energy consumption. Many of the changes relate to the Building Management System, to optimise the operation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) plant, by adjusting time schedules and rationalising temperature set points. We are also upgrading lighting to energy efficient systems, replacing tungsten halogen bulbs with LEDs, and installing and enabling daylight and occupancy sensing. We have installed eCubes to fridges, with potential for 15-20 per cent. energy savings.

In its Low Carbon Transition Plan, published on 15 July, DECC committed to a 10 per cent. reduction in its carbon emissions in this financial year, with more to come in 2010 and beyond.

In 2008, DEFRA installed a powerPerfector in 3 Whitehall Place, reducing energy consumption by 8.66 per cent. from the installation date to May 2009.

DECC is also promoting energy efficiency amongst its staff, senior managers and Ministers through a number of behaviour change activities, including encouraging use of the stairs, turning off electrical equipment when not in use, and reducing use of printers and photocopiers.

Departmental Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the level of underspend in his Department for each of its budget headings is in 2009-10. [289753]

Joan Ruddock: At this early stage in the financial year expenditure has been broadly in line with budgets for the first three months. We are keeping expenditure closely under review and are concerned to avoid both underspends and overspends as far as is possible. We will continue to monitor closely and are currently forecasting to remain within budget for the year 2009-10.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the budget for *(a)* the Carbon Trust and *(b)* the Energy Saving Trust for 2009-10 to be finalised. [289891]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Trust's and Energy Saving Trust's budgets for 2009-10 have been finalised and agreed.

The Energy Saving Trust will receive £38.5 million in grant funding from DECC to deliver its objective to encourage and promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy in households and £1 million capital funding for technological field trials.

In 2009-10, the Carbon Trust's funding from DECC will be up to £84.53 million. In addition, the Carbon Trust will receive funding in 2009-10 specifically to deliver low interest loans to SMEs, and to public sector bodies through Salix Finance, as announced in Budget 2009. Total funding for these schemes in 2009-10 is up to £121.6 million. The Carbon Trust may also receive further funding for specific activities from the low carbon investment funding announced in Budget 2009.

Departmental ICT

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what IT projects are being undertaken by *(a)* the Coal Authority, *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, *(c)* the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, *(d)* the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, *(e)* the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, *(f)* the Renewables Advisory Board, *(g)* the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee, *(h)* the Committee on Climate Change, *(i)* the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and *(j)* the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets; what the most recent estimate of the cost of each project is; and what the projected completion date of each is. [289872]

Mr. Kidney: No IT projects are currently being undertaken by the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, the Renewables Advisory Board, the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee and the Committee on Climate Change.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is responsible for 19 sites formally owned by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. The NDA currently spends approximately £58 million a year on IT across its estate, through a mixture of in house and contracted services. The NDA has recently initiated a collaborative project across its estate to tender the provision of IT services across the NDA estate. New contractual arrangements are expected to be in place by 31 March 2011.

The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management is currently developing and maintaining a website. Development should be completed by January 2010. Its budget can be viewed at:

http://www.corwm.org.uk/PagesPlenary%20Meetings/2589%20%20April%20Budget%20Report%20Final.pdf

The Coal Authority has commenced work on one major IT project named "Inferis" with a value of £6.5 million. The project is due to be completed by May 2011.

Ofgem is currently undertaking the following IT projects:

Project title	*Completion date*	*Estimated cost (£)*
Markets Electricity Database	1 March 2010	155,695
Networks Database	1 April 2010	143,397
Carbon Emissions Reduction Targets	1 January 2010	46,000
Community Energy Savings Programme	1 April 2010	1,025,000
Project Feed-In Tariffs	1 April 2010	700,000

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has lead responsibility for the UK Atomic Energy Authority. UKAEA currently has no major IT projects under way.

Departmental Marketing

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its predecessors spent on the Act on CO_2 campaign in each year since the campaign was initiated; and what the budget for the campaign is in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [290163]

Joan Ruddock: The costs for the Act on CO_2 campaign since 2007 are as follows.

2007-08: £5.5 million.

2008-09: £13 million (budgeted).

2009-10: £370,000 (committed between April and July 2009). We are considering our campaign plans for the rest of 2009-10.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what advertising campaigns his Department is running; and what the estimated total cost is of each. [289786]

Joan Ruddock: Act on CO_2 is the Department's key public campaign to raise awareness of climate change issues and to encourage sustained behaviour change. Between April 2009 and July 2009, DECC is expected to spend approximately £370,000 on Act on CO_2 campaign advertising media and production. We are considering our advertising plans for the rest of 2009-10.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what advertising campaigns *(a)* the Coal Authority, *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, *(c)* the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, *(d)* the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, *(e)* the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, *(f)* the Renewables Advisory Board, *(g)* the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee, *(h)* the Committee on Climate Change, *(i)* the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and *(j)* the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets is running; and what the estimated cost is of each. [289788]

Mr. Kidney: The Coal Authority, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, the Renewables Advisory Board, the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee are not currently running any advertising campaigns.

The Committee on Climate Change spent £500 in the months of May and June 2009 on directing increased traffic to its website via a pay per click Google Adwords campaign. The Committee on Climate Change does not allocate any major part of its budget to be spent on promoting the organisation through advertising.

Ofgem are currently running the following advertising campaigns:

Advertising campaign	*Cost of advertising (£)*
Recruitment: Industry Codes and Licensing Manager	1,570
Recruitment: Senior Manager, Commercial Regulation and Policy	2,400
Recruitment: Senior Manager, New Scheme Development	1,324
Recruitment: Policy Development Manager, New Scheme x 3	1,199
Procurement: Contract for provision of services to Administer the Ofgem Approved Meter Installer Registration (OAMI) Scheme	0
Procurement: Contract for modernisation and ongoing maintenance of 9 Lifts at Ofgem's Millbank Offices	0
Procurement: IT Penetration Testing Contract	0
Total	6,493

The Department for Business Innovation and Skills has lead responsibility for the UK Atomic Energy Authority. UKAEA is running no advertising campaigns apart from recruitment advertising. The one minor exception is that UKAEA Limited have just agreed to pay for a hoarding at Whitehaven Rugby Club.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what advertising campaigns *(a)* the Energy Saving Trust and *(b)* the Carbon Trust are running; and what the estimated cost is of each. [289787]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust's key consumer campaign in 2009-10 will continue to position the Trust as the place to go for energy saving advice. The Energy Saving Trust are targeting themselves to get 1.7million customer contacts to view their website and 1.5million customers to contact advice centres.

This campaign was launched on 12 September with TV being the lead medium, supported by radio and online advertising and PR. The first part of the campaign is planned to run for four weeks until 19 October, which is the start of Energy Saving Week. The second part is planned to run from 4 to 31 January.

The estimated total cost of these for the whole of this financial year is less than £2.5 million.

The Carbon Trust's main advertising campaigns this financial year up to March 2010 are:

(1) Promotion of the interest-free loan fund for small business

(2) Promotion of support and help to business and the public sector on carbon emission reduction and energy efficiency

(3) Promotion of support and help to businesses on low carbon innovation

The estimated total cost of these for the whole of this financial year is £4 million.

Departmental Meetings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have met representatives of (i) Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd, (ii) Eastern Petroleum Corporation Ltd, (iii) African Minerals Ltd, (iv) Landis+Gyr and (v) Energy Enterprises Ltd in the last three years. [289935]

Mr. Kidney: Since the creation of DECC officials in the Department have met representatives from Landis and Gyr to discuss smart metering and demand side response. There have been bilateral meetings and the company has been represented, with other stakeholders, at presentations and workshops supporting smart meter policy and demand side response development.

There have been no formal meetings with representatives of Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd, Eastern Petroleum Corporation Ltd, African Minerals Ltd or Energy Enterprises Ltd.

Departmental Personnel

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of his Department's staff were based in *(a)* his Department's London offices, *(b)* the London offices of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and *(c)* the London offices of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 3 July 2009. [289654]

Joan Ruddock: The Department had 25 staff working in the London offices of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 3 July 2009. The remaining staff were working in DECC offices.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff are employed by his Department at offices outside London. [289782]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has an office in Aberdeen which employs 77 staff. This is the only office DECC has outside of London

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many economists from the Government Economic Service are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Committee on Climate Change and *(c)* the Office of Climate Change. [289856]

Joan Ruddock: As of 1 August 2009 there were 70 economists from the Government Economic Service employed in DECC. This total includes GES economists in the Office of Climate Change, which is part of DECC. Some of these economists were on part time contracts.

As of 1 August 2009 there were 10 economists from the Government Economic Service employed in the Committee on Climate Change.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many members of staff in *(a)* the Coal Authority, *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, *(c)* the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, *(d)* the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, *(e)* the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, *(f)* the Renewables Advisory Board, *(g)* the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee, *(h)* the Committee on Climate Change, *(i)* the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and *(j)* the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [289871]

Mr. Kidney: No staff in the Coal Authority, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority nor members of the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, the Renewables Advisory Board, the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee are classed as Government communicators, or have access to the Government Communications Network.

The Committee on Climate Change's Communications Manager, is both a Government communicator and a member of the Government Communications Network.

OFGEM has 12 staff classified as Government communicators. All have access to the Government Communication Network.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has lead responsibility for the UK Atomic Energy Authority. No UKAEA staff are classed as Government communicators or have access to the Government Communications Network.

Departmental Postal Services

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 402W, on departmental postal services, whether his Department has established a correspondence unit. [290275]

Mr. Kidney: Casework on the Warm Front Scheme is dealt with in-house. Other cases from the public are handled through a shared service approach by the customer contact units of DEFRA and BIS. The Department is considering a range of options for handling correspondence in the long-term.

Departmental Public Relations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 172-73W, on Government communications, what the pay band is of each of the 13 members of staff in his Department who are classified as Government communicators. [290026]

Joan Ruddock: DECC now have 15 members of staff who are classified as Government communicators. These include:

2 x Senior Civil Servants
2 x Grade 6s
2 x Grade 7s
2 x Senior Information Officers
7 x Information Officers.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 172-73W, on Government communications, what the job description is of his Department's marketing officers. [290027]

Joan Ruddock: The role of the marketing and campaigns team in DECC is to:

ensure all marketing and campaigns output is clearly aligned to departmental policy priorities and informed by audience insight/research;

plan, deliver, co-ordinate all marketing activity, including as appropriate advertising, direct marketing, digital activity, public relations, partnerships and publications;

ensure all marketing services are procured in accordance with EU procurement policy, demonstrate value for money and that outputs are effectively evaluated; and

liaise as appropriate with other Government Departments, delivery bodies and other stakeholders to ensure communications are joined up, transparent and effective.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289659]

Joan Ruddock: The Department was formed in October 2008 and our waste recycling services are provided by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The proportion of waste recycled by the Department is not calculated separately.

Departmental Responsibilities

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1357W, on departmental responsibilities, what level of gateway review was conducted for each of the projects referred to; on what date the gateway review was concluded in each case; and what the outcome was. [289713]

Joan Ruddock: Details of the level of gateway review of the projects—2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1357W—are listed as follows. The outcome of the review is not disclosed on the grounds that it would prejudice the exercise of audit function.

Project	*OGC Gate*	*Date*
Nuclear fuel assurance/enrichment bond	SGR (starting gateway review)	June 2008
Severn tidal power feasibility study	0	September 2008
Government carbon offsetting fund II (currently in progress)	2	March 2009
Carbon capture and storage demonstration project	1	June 2007

Project	*OGC Gate*	*Date*
Low level waste repository competition	3 and 4	September 2007 and June 2009
Sellafield competition	Review 2, 2A, 3 and 4	February 2007, November 2007, September 2008 and scheduled for September 2009
Asset use	0	October 2008

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 930W, on departmental responsibilities, how many staff of each grade are employed in his Department's central strategy team. [289755]

Joan Ruddock: There are 37 staff employed in the central strategy team. The breakdown is as follows;

7 x SCS
4 x Grade 6
14 x Grade 7
3 x SEO
4 x HEO
5 x EO.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report,* column 930W, on departmental responsibilities, what projects are being undertaken by his Department's central strategy team. [289756]

Joan Ruddock: Since the previous answer referred to, the main focus of the department's central strategy team has been to co-ordinate the production of the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, as published on 15 July. The team also supported the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Carbon Markets, Mark Lazarowicz MP, in the production of his report Global Carbon Trading: a framework for reducing emissions, and led the production of the cross-government publication Investing in a Low-Carbon Britain.

Following the publication of the Transition Plan, the team will be focusing on work to ensure its implementation, both within my department and working with others across Government and outside.

Departmental Responsibilities: EU Law

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what transposition date his Department has set for each EU directive on matters for which his Department is responsible which has been brought into force since the establishment of his Department. [290256]

Joan Ruddock: DECC does not currently keep a central record of the information requested. However, the following have been identified. DECC is responsible for the transposition of the following directives made on or after October 2008:

Directive 2008/101/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to include aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the community. The Directive will be transposed in two statutory instruments: the first will come into force on 17 September 2009, the second is scheduled to come into force by 2 February 2010, which is the deadline for transposition.

Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC. The deadline for transposition is 5 December 2010.

Directive 2009/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme of the community. The deadline for transposition is 31 December 2009 (for article 1(10) and 1(13)) and 31 December 2012 (for the remainder).

Directive 2009/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the geological storage of carbon dioxide and amending Council Directive 85/337/EEC, European Parliament and Council Directives 2000/60/EC, 2001/80/EC, 2004/53/EC, 2006/12/EC, 2008/1/EC and Regulation EC No 1013/2006. The deadline for transposition is 25 June 2011.

Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations. The deadline for transposition is 22 July 2011.

Directive 2009/72/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and repealing Directive 2003/54/EC. The deadline for transposition is 3 March 2011.

Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 2003/55/EC. The deadline for transposition is 3 March 2011.

A Directive imposing an obligation on member states to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products was agreed at the Energy Council of 12 June 2009 with a transposition date of 31 December 2012.

Departmental Standards

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projects in his Department have been subject to gateway review since his Department was created. [289789]

Joan Ruddock: None.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what stocktake meetings his Department has had with the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit since his Department was established. [289936]

Joan Ruddock: The PMDU is in constant contact with Departments as part of its process of taking stock of delivery. It reports regularly to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, the Treasury and the Departments concerned.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department since its inception in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289678]

Joan Ruddock: DECC external training budgets are delegated to line managers, and the information requested is not held centrally. As a consequence the information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to promote the uptake of smart grid technologies to generate electricity. [289366]

Mr. Kidney: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is already working on key areas of smart networks to ensure it understand the benefits of smart grid technologies for meeting our goals and to encourage deployment in the coming years. Its programme currently consists of:

Smart meters:

A programme to roll out smart meters to every home by end 2020—an £8 billion private sector investment. This is one of the building blocks for creating a smart grid.

Deploying new technologies:

Encouraging Distribution Network Operators through regulatory incentives to trial new 'smarter' technologies on their networks. The Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets are proposing to significantly increase the amount of funding available for this.

Developing new technologies:

Providing direct funding for innovation through the Energy Technologies Institute which aims to invest up to £1 billion over the next 10 years in low carbon energy technologies, including networks. The Government are engaging with the recently established Energy Technologies Institute networks panel that is scoping the objectives they set for a call for projects.

Funding research:

Providing direct funding, through the Research Councils, of over £30 million for collaborative research in networks involving academia and industry. Providing complementary funding of £6 million to supplement other funding for network innovation such as Ofgem's Innovation Funding Incentive among other sources. Government funding for smart grids will be used to support early stage development of trials of key technologies consistent with a vision for a smart grid in the UK to be published later this year.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 931-2W, on electricity generation, what the electricity supply capacity margin was in each year from 1990 to 2006. [289758]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the UK electricity supply capacity margin, for financial years 1993-04 to 2006-07.

	Total electricity declared net capacity (MW)	*Simultaneous UK maximum electricity load met (MW)*	*Implied percentage margin*
1993-94	66,901	54,848	22.0
1994-95	64,923	52,362	24.0
1995-96	66,100	55,611	18.9
1996-97	69,090	56,815	21.6
1997-98	68,288	56,965	19.9
1998-99	68,390	56,312	21.4
1999-2000	70,245	57,849	21.4
2000-01	72,193	58,452	23.5
2001-02	73,382	58,589	25.2
2002-03	70,369	61,717	14.0
2003-04	71,465	60,501	18.1
2004-05	73,287	61,013	20.1
2005-06	73,941	61,697	19.8
2006-07	72,996	59,071	23.6

Source:
Energy Sector Indicators, 2009, available at:
http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/indicators/indicators.aspx

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the percentage of electricity generated lost in *(a)* transmission and *(b)* distribution in other EU member states. [290261]

Mr. Kidney: The Department does not hold such information. However, Eurostat does publish data on total network losses, transmission and distribution combined, for each member state.

Electricity: Compensation

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have received compensation payments under the Guaranteed Standards Scheme from electricity companies in the last 12 months. [290929]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The number of people receiving compensation payments under the Guaranteed Standards Scheme for 2007-08 is:

Electricity Guaranteed Standard of Performance (EGS)	*Number of payments made*	*Value of payments*
EGS1	101	2,020
EGS2	9,973	[1]2,717,691
EGS2A	842	42,100
EGS3	23	2,040
EGS4	814	16,280
EGS5	11	220
EGS8	96	1,920
EGS9	60	1,200
EGS11A	594	14,850
EGS11B	124	3,100
EGS11C	0	[1]142,050
EGS12	0	0

[1] Figures that Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) reported in their annual revenue returns as "normal compensation payments due" across the 14 DNOs. This includes ex-gratia payments from the 14 DNOs to consumers who failed to claim under the EGS.

Page 37 of the following link details what each EGS covers:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Networks/ElecDist/QualofServ/QoSIncent/Documents1/12180-258_05.pdf

Electricity: Consumption

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to support the *(a)* development and *(b)* uptake of dynamic demand technology in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [289365]

Mr. Kidney: The Department is assessing the potential for such technology to help us achieve our energy policy goals. We recently published a call for evidence on

"Delivering Secure Low Carbon Electricity" which focused in part on how to make electricity demand smarter, including through the use of dynamic demand devices. The call for evidence closes at the end of October.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* utility companies and *(b)* domestic appliance manufacturers on dynamic demand technology; and if he will make a statement. [289367]

Mr. Kidney: I have invited stakeholders to submit analysis about the potential for dynamic demand through DECC's recent call for evidence "Delivering Secure Low Carbon Electricity" and hope that the utility companies and domestic appliance manufacturers will use this opportunity to represent their views. The call for evidence closes at the end of October.

Electricity: Meters

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of smart metering in *(a)* reducing carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* improving efficiency in the UK electricity supply industry. [289364]

Mr. Kidney: In May 2009 the Government published an Impact Assessment of the roll-out of smart metering alongside its consultation on smart metering. Both documents are available from the consultations section of the DECC website at:

www.decc.gov.uk

The impact assessment includes an assessment of the benefits of smart metering. The consultation closed in August and the Government are now considering the responses.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to hold a consultation during 2009 on its plans to roll-out smart meters to all domestic customers. [289890]

Mr. Kidney: The Government published a consultation on smart metering on 11 May 2009. It is available at the consultation section of the DECC website at:

www.decc.gov.uk

The consultation closed on 3 August. The Government are now considering responses and will respond to the consultation in due course.

Electricity: Prices

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average price of *(a)* a unit of gas and *(b)* a kWh of electricity supplied to households in the UK was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) each month of 2008; and what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on equivalent figures for each other EU member state. [289944]

Mr. Kidney: The Department's latest estimates for the average annual domestic energy bills and provisional estimates for the year to 2009 and are published in Quarterly Energy Prices, published in September 2009.

For an average consumer using 18,000 kWh of gas per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), the average unit price for gas was £2.63 in 2006, £3.07 in 2007, £3.17 in 2008 and £3.99 in 2009.

For an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), the average unit price for electricity was £10.24 in 2006, £11.61 in 2007, £12.26 in 2008 and £13.94 in 2009. Average unit prices per month are not available.

Regarding unit prices of gas and electricity in other EU member states, DECC republishes bi-annual data collected by Eurostat, the European statistical agency. The data are in Table 5.6.2 and 5.10.2 of Quarterly Energy Prices, published in September 2009 and available online at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

Latest data, for July to December 2008, show that UK domestic gas and electricity prices were the lowest and seventh lowest in the EU 15 (the original 15 EU member states) respectively.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average expenditure on *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity of a household in the UK was in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) each month of 2008; and what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on equivalent figures for each other EU member state. [289945]

Mr. Kidney: The Department's latest estimates for the average annual domestic energy bills and provisional estimates for the year to 2009 and are published in Quarterly Energy Prices, published in September 2009.

For an average consumer using 18,000 kWh of gas per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), the average annual bill for gas was £474 in 2006, £552 in 2007, £570 in 2008 and £719 in 2009.

For an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), the average annual bill for electricity was £338 in 2006, £383 in 2007, £405 in 2008 and £460 in 2009. Average bills per month are not available.

DECC does not hold any information on average expenditure on gas and electricity by other EU member states. However regarding unit prices of gas and electricity in other EU member states, DECC republishes bi-annual data collected by Eurostat, the European statistical agency. The data are in Table 5.6.2 and 5.10.2 of Quarterly Energy Prices, published in September 2009 and available online at:

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

Latest data, for July to December 2008, show that UK domestic gas and electricity prices were the lowest and seventh lowest in the EU 15 (the original 15 EU member states) respectively.

Electricity: Storage

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's policy is on the development of *(a)* grid scale energy storage and *(b)* energy balancing technologies; and if he will make a statement. [289368]

Mr. Kidney: DECC's recently published "Delivering Secure Low Carbon Electricity: A Call for Evidence" asks for evidence from stakeholders on the potential of electrical energy storage to manage the balance between electricity supply and demand in the long-term.

Energy Best Deal

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 171W, on energy: consumers, how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Ofgem allocated to the Energy Best Deal pilot. [290029]

Mr. Kidney: The Department provided funding of £150,000 for the national roll-out of the Energy Best Deal in England and Wales during the winter of 2008-09. Ofgem funded the pilot phase in 2007-08, which cost £27,000.

Energy Savings Trust

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for each of the buildings occupied by the Energy Saving Trust's regional advice centres. [289647]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Savings Trust's (EST) regional advice centres are not required to have display energy certificates or associated advisory reports for public buildings. However, as would be expected, EST has taken steps to identify the energy performance of its buildings.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget of the Energy Saving Trust was in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; what it is planned to be in 2010-11; and how much of that funding was from his Department in each year. [289721]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust (EST) is a not-for-profit private company limited by guarantee, and so their accounts are a matter of public record and are accessible at Companies House.

The following table highlights what DECC, and previously DEFRA, has given in funding to the EST for the valuable work it undertakes to encourage and promote the sustainable and efficient use of energy.

£ million

	Resource funding	*Capital funding*
2007-08	29.8	0
2008-09	35.2	1
2009-10	38.5	1

The funding allocation for future years has not yet been confirmed.

Energy Supply

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has for the future regulation of the industrial energy supply sector. [290752]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The Government continues to believe in the importance of well-regulated, competitive energy markets in the UK and internationally to ensure secure, affordable and low carbon energy supplies, whether for industrial, commercial or residential customers. Market conditions develop over time, and the Government will amend the UK regulatory framework as required to deliver these objectives while maintaining the stability necessary to support investment.

Energy Supply: Meters

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of customers using a pre-payment meter who have a household income below 60 per cent. of median income. [289645]

Mr. Kidney: In England in 2006, around 30 per cent. of households using a pre-payment meter for either their gas, electricity or both utilities had an income below 60 per cent. of the median.

The income measures used to derive the estimates employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. Small differences in the definition of income will exist because of the use of a different survey source.

Energy Supply: Security

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change against what numerical measures of security of supply of *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity his Department collects information. [289874]

Mr. Kidney: The Department of Energy and Climate Change collects numerical information relating to gas and electricity security of supply. The data are available on an annual basis in DUKES (Digest of UK energy statistics). Quarterly and monthly data are also available at the following websites (where the corresponding tables in DUKES can also be found).

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/gas/gas.aspx

The key tables in DUKES are as follows:

Gas

UK gas production and imports: Table 4.3

Origin of imports: Table 4.5

Capacity of gas storage sites: Table 4.4

Gas consumption in the UK: Table 4.2

Electricity

Fuel mix used in electricity generation: Table 5.6

Plant capacity: Table 5.7

Plant load factors and maximum demand: Table 5.10

Electricity consumption in the UK: Table 5.2

The Department also releases information relating to energy consumption by sector and end use; these data are available from the Energy Consumption in the UK section of the Departments website at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/ecuk/ecuk.aspx

In addition, the Department receives information from National Grid on electricity generation and network capacity and on gas flows and capacities which are referred to in Energy Markets Outlook.

Energy: Advisory Services

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 932W, on energy: advisory services, how many members of the public have visited each of the regional advice centres in each of the last five years. [289759]

Joan Ruddock: The roll out of the network of the Energy Saving Trust (EST) regional advice centres began in March 2008 and was completed in December 2008. The advice centres are not open to the public to visit, but provide the consumer with comprehensive and tailored advice on how to reduce their carbon footprint, through the Government-funded Act on CO_2 advice line and through outreach events. In 2008-09 the EST advised over 1.3 million consumers through their advice centres.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 932W, on energy: advisory services, what the cost of running each regional advice centre was in each of the last five years. [289760]

Joan Ruddock: The roll-out of the network of the EST regional advice centres began in March 2008 and was completed in December 2008. We are not able to provide details on the cost of running each regional advice centre as this information is commercially sensitive as the contracts were let by EST by competitive tender.

Energy: Housing

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made towards establishing a one-stop green homes service since the Prime Minister's announcement of the initiative in November 2007. [289447]

Joan Ruddock: Following my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's announcement in November 2007, the Energy Saving Trust (EST) has established the Government funded Act on CO_2 advice line and nationwide network of regional advice centres. The 'one-stop-shop' offers consumers a range of free and impartial advice on energy efficiency, microgeneration and renewable energy, low carbon transport, water efficiency and waste reduction and a range of independent services and sources of funding that will help them action that advice.

The EST will also be contacting all households with properties that have received the lowest home energy ratings (F and G ratings) in their Energy Performance Certificates, to offer tailored advice on energy savings measures that could be taken.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chorley of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 863-64W, on household energy efficiency, whether the seven million homes to be provided with whole house energy refurbishment by 2020 are in addition to the over five million homes insulated since 2002. [289534]

Joan Ruddock: Our goal is to have made whole-house packages of measures available to all homes by 2030. These packages would include all cost-effective energy saving measures and renewable heat and electricity measures as appropriate and we project that around seven million homes will have received them by 2020. This may include homes that have already been insulated since 2002, where scope exists for additional measures through the whole-house approach.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what expenditure the Energy Saving Trust incurred on energy efficiency measures in domestic dwellings in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what estimate the Trust has made of such expenditure in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [289651]

Joan Ruddock: The Trust has not directly funded any domestic energy efficiency measures in households during the periods 2007-08 and 2008-09 as it is not the Energy Saving Trust's role to directly fund such measures. The Trust does not plan to fund these measures in future years.

The Trust raises consumers' awareness of the effectiveness of energy efficiency measures and then converts that awareness into action. It does this by sign-posting and guiding consumers to appropriate grant and offer schemes for energy efficiency measures such as insulation.

Energy: Import Duties

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department holds information on *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity tariffs charged by UK energy supply companies to customers in other countries. [289894]

Mr. Kidney: DECC does not hold information on tariffs offered by different supply companies within other countries. Eurostat collates equivalent figures on average unit prices in other EU countries, which DECC publishes.

Energy: International Co-operation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps the Government has taken with international partners to achieve a low carbon global economy. [291531]

Joan Ruddock: The UK Government are committed to a low carbon global economy. Internationally, we are working through fora including the G8, G20 and Major Economies Forum, to stimulate a low carbon recovery and support a transition to a low carbon economy.

This was a key priority for the G20 London summit, chaired by the Prime Minister. The summit communiqué makes building a green and sustainable economy one of the six core commitments of economic recovery made by the G20 countries, and 'accelerating the transition to a green economy' one of the goals of fiscal expansion. G20 leaders also agreed a strong commitment to achieving an international climate change agreement at Copenhagen—the first time all major countries have collectively done so. Achieving an ambitious agreement will be an important step towards creating an international framework which supports a low carbon global economy.

Energy: Internet

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many hits the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment website has received since its creation. [289648]

Mr. Kidney: The Offshore Energy SEA website received 1,397,543 successful requests for pages from 40,315 distinct hosts between 10 December 2007 (when scoping began) and 24 July 2009.

Energy: Prices

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 681W, on energy prices, when he expects the proposals on which Ofgem has consulted to be implemented. [289754]

Mr. Kidney: On 21 September Ofgem released a note on the implementation of these measures. This is available from Ofgem's website at this address:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/PressRel/Documents1/Remedies%20info%20note%20final.pdf

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects of increases in energy prices on small and medium-sized businesses. [290748]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* DECC is keenly aware of the impact of past increases in energy costs on small and medium sized businesses. Wholesale energy costs have fallen in recent months, creating the potential for businesses renewing contracts or agreeing new ones to look for price reductions in comparison with earlier in the year.

DECC welcomes the measures recently announced by Ofgem to improve the operation of the SME supply market. DECC receives information and considers data and analysis on the impacts of energy prices, from a number of sources. DECC publishes data on energy prices, based on energy consumption levels.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 931W, on the Environmental Transformation Fund, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Contribution Arrangement. [289757]

Joan Ruddock: This Contribution Arrangement is between the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, acting jointly through my department and the Department for International Development. We have placed a copy of the Contribution Arrangement in the Library.

It should be noted that as a non-legally binding agreement it is used as a flexible tool to facilitate the UK's contribution to Climate Investment Funds, and may be subject to amendments and revisions as necessary. We have submitted a cover note to this effect.

EU Law

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which *(a)* statutory instruments and *(b)* other regulations relating to matters for which his Department is responsible have been brought forward as a consequence of obligations arising from EU law since the establishment of his Department. [289860]

Joan Ruddock: DECC does not keep a central record of the information requested. However, the following orders and regulations made by DECC on or after October 2008 have been identified as implementing EU obligations:

The Transfrontier Shipment of Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/3087).

Renewables Obligation Order 2009 (S.I. 2009/785).

The Gas and Electricity (Dispute Resolution) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/1349).

Aviation Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/2301).

Fuel Poverty

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department plans to spend on the reductions of fuel poverty in the next three years. [289927]

Mr. Kidney: The Department's fuel poverty budget for the current spending round (2008-11) was £400 million in 2008-09, £374 million in the current year and £200 million in 2010-11. The fuel poverty budget beyond 2010-11 will be subject to the normal Government spending review process.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects of winter fuel payments on levels of fuel poverty. [289931]

Mr. Kidney: Winter Fuel Payments make an important contribution to tackling fuel poverty and are responsible for taking around 100,000 households out of fuel poverty in England in 2006 (and around 200,000 in the UK as a whole).

For the purposes of the Government's fuel poverty statistics, and consistency with other statistics. Winter Fuel Payments are classified as an addition to recipients' incomes. However, while it remains appropriate to consider Winter Fuel Payments in this way for statistical purposes, it is also useful to consider what effect they would have if used to meet energy bills directly.

Taking this approach, around 600,000 fewer households in England (and around 1.1 million fewer households in the UK as a whole) are shown to need to spend more that 10 per cent. of their income in order to meet the remaining costs of heating their home adequately.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas have been classified as being in fuel poverty in each year since 1997. [290259]

Mr. Kidney: Figures for the number of households in fuel poverty in England are produced from analysis of the English House Condition Survey. Data at the rural/urban level are only available from 2003 onwards. The definitions of urban and rural populations were modified between 2004 and 2005 meaning there will be some discontinuity in the series shown in the following table:

	Number households in fuel poverty (000s)			
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Urban	893	939	1,095	1,768
Rural	329	297	434	664
Total	1,222	1,236	1,529	2,432

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes in *(a)* North West Leicestershire constituency, *(b)* Leicestershire, *(c)* the East Midlands and *(d)* England are living in fuel poverty. [292385]

Mr. Kidney: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2003 and shows that in North West Leicestershire, there were around 2,300 fuel poor households. In the county of Leicestershire in the same period, there were around 15,100 fuel poor households.

More recent figures for the East Midlands and England are available. These show that in 2006, there were around 236,000 fuel poor households in the East Midlands and around 2.4 million fuel poor households living in England.

Green Jobs

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition of the term green jobs his Department uses; and what his most recent estimate is of the number of people employed in jobs which meet his Department's definition of green jobs. [289652]

Joan Ruddock: There is currently no single definition of what constitutes a green job.

The definition of green jobs used in the Government's UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy is based on an analysis of the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector (Innovas, March 2009, Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services: an industry analysis).

The definition includes jobs in the following industrial sectors and their supply chains: air, noise and marine pollution; renewable energy; and emerging low-carbon technologies.

Innovas estimated that in 2007-08 there were around 880,000 workers employed in the LCEGS sector in the UK.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what incentives the Government has provided for businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. [291533]

Joan Ruddock: Government have a range of measures in place to incentivise and assist businesses to reduce their emissions. These include:

Incentivising businesses to save energy through measures such as the Climate Change Levy, Climate Change Agreements and the forthcoming Carbon Reduction Commitment;

Including high-carbon industries in the EU Emissions Trading System; and

Advice and support, in particular through the Government funded Carbon Trust, which provides a range of services to help businesses reduce their emissions. These include carbon surveys, interest free loans for small and medium enterprises, and a dedicated website and advice line.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps the Government has taken to assist businesses in Coventry to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. [291532]

Joan Ruddock: Government have a range of measures in place to incentivise and assist businesses to reduce their emissions. These include:

Incentivising businesses to save energy through measures such as the Climate Change Levy, Climate Change Agreements and the forthcoming Carbon Reduction Commitment;

Including high-carbon industries in the EU Emissions Trading System; and

Providing advice and other support, including interest free loans, to help businesses cut their carbon emissions and reduce their resource use.

While there are no specific measures for businesses in Coventry, all these measures will incentivise businesses in Coventry as they will businesses across the country.

Hartlepool Power Station

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate's investigation into the high-pressure backup cooling water pump event of 20 June 2008 at Hartlepool nuclear power station; and if he will make a statement. [289718]

Mr. Kidney: The investigation by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate into this incident is complete. The incident is classified as level 1 under the International Atomic Energy Agency's International Nuclear Events Scale. This level is defined as "an anomaly beyond the authorised operating regime" and is one class above the lowest category of 0. The facility operator, British Energy, is legally obliged by its nuclear site licence to provide adequate arrangements for investigating incidents on the site and conducted an investigation into the June 2008 incident. In line with its established policy for such incidents, the Nuclear Directorate's investigation consisted of a review of British Energy's own investigation and concluded that this was satisfactory.

The key change made as a result of the investigation was that British Energy put in place improvements to its maintenance arrangements at Hartlepool nuclear power station.

Heating

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will meet representatives of the heating controls industry to discuss the merits of establishing a joint Government-industry campaign to promote the energy efficiency benefits of heating controls; and if he will make a statement; [289899]

(2) what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase consumer awareness of the potential reduction in energy consumption of using domestic heating controls; and if he will make a statement. [289902]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has taken a number of actions to increase consumer awareness of the benefits of using domestic heating controls. Our Building Regulations require a minimum set of controls to be installed when a boiler is replaced. In addition, we have ensured heating controls are an eligible measure under the obligation on energy suppliers to help households save carbon and energy and over 2 million heating controls have been distributed since 2005 through this scheme. The Energy Saving Trust (EST) includes the proper installation and use of heating controls as part of its core package of free energy efficiency advice to consumers, which DECC grant funds. The EST is also monitoring some advanced controls, as part of an extension to an on-going boiler performance project. More recently, the Government have acted to include Home Energy Advice as a qualifying measure under the existing supplier obligation. The Home Energy Advice package will be delivered to householders face to face in their home and encompasses a specific set of energy using behaviours, including how heating controls can be used more effectively to achieve energy savings.

Given this significant level of activity we would question the need for a joint Government-industry campaign to promote the benefits of heating controls further.

Heysham 1 Power Station

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate's investigation into the interlock event at Heysham 1 nuclear power station on 25 June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [289719]

Mr. Kidney: The investigation by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate into this incident is complete. The incident is classified as level 1 under the International Atomic Energy Agency's International Nuclear Events Scale. This level is defined as "an anomaly beyond the authorised operating regime" and is one class above the lowest category of 0. The facility operator, British Energy, is legally obliged by its nuclear site licence to provide adequate arrangements for investigating incidents on the site and conducted an investigation into the June 2008 incident. In line with its established policy for such incidents, the Nuclear Directorate's investigation consisted of a review of British Energy's own investigation and concluded that this was satisfactory. The key change made as a result of the investigation was that British Energy put in place improvements to its control of maintenance activities at Heysham 1 nuclear power station.

Job Creation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of jobs in the low carbon and environmental goods and services industries to be created as a consequence of the fiscal stimulus announced in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report. [290274]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have not made a formal assessment of the number of new jobs created by specific measures announced in the pre-Budget report. However, independent research (Innovas, March 2009, "Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services: an industry analysis") estimated that the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector employs 880,000 people in the UK and is expected to grow to over one million by the middle of the next decade. The accelerated capital spending and additional resources announced in the pre-Budget report to support low carbon growth, and the £1.4 billion of additional targeted support for the low carbon sector announced in Budget 2009, will be key to driving investment and employment in these sectors.

Lighting

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many compact fluorescent light bulbs have been provided under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme in each of the last five years; [289600]

(2) how many compact fluorescent light bulbs have been issued without charge under *(a)* the Warm Front Scheme and *(b)* the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme in each of the last five years. [289636]

Joan Ruddock: The information is as follows:

(a) The number of compact fluorescent light bulbs issued under the Warm Front Scheme in each of the last five years is provided in the following table.

Scheme year	*Number of compact fluorescent light bulbs issued under the Warm Front Scheme*
2004-05	416,168
2005-06	346,368
2006-07	506,158
2007-08	537,800
2008-09	467,188

The cost of providing two compact fluorescent light bulbs is currently £8.09, which is deducted from the available household grant.

(b) The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme commenced in April 2008. 152.6 million compact fluorescent light bulbs were issued in the period April 2008 to March 2009.

101.8 million compact fluorescent light bulbs were issued under the previous three-year scheme (April 2005 to March 2008).

39.7 million compact fluorescent light bulbs were issued under the first supplier obligation scheme (April 2002 to March 2005).

Under the three schemes a significant percentage of compact fluorescent light bulbs (approximately 75 per cent.) are understood to have been distributed by energy suppliers without charge.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions his Department estimates have been avoided as a result of the provision of compact fluorescent light bulbs under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme in each of the last five years. [289601]

Joan Ruddock: The estimated annual savings from the compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) installed and used since April 2005 and up to March 2009 are estimated as 5.9 TWh of electricity and annual savings of 1.95MtCO$_2$. This is based on 254 million CFLs distributed and builds in the following assumptions:

An average use of light bulbs of 460 hours a year.

The heat replacement effect.

Around 5 per cent. of the CFLs are not installed.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what process is used to determine the type of compact fluorescent light bulbs that are sent to energy customers under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme. [289602]

Joan Ruddock: Energy suppliers are free to promote to consumers any compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) that has been proven to save energy and carbon. Up to 1 January 2010, at which point direct mail CFLs are to be withdrawn from CERT, it is at suppliers' discretion which CFL type they promote, within Ofgem's guidance. The guidance states that only four CFLs per customer are eligible to be sent directly and that any pack of four bulbs has to include at least two types.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1369W, on the Warm Front Scheme, what steps his Department takes to ensure that compact fluorescent light bulbs sent to Warm Front customers are suitable for the light fittings at their property. [289770]

Mr. Kidney: All compact fluorescent light bulbs issued to Warm Front customers are supplied with standard British bayonet cap fittings. Bayonet cap fittings are suitable for use in more than 95 per cent. of the light fittings in England.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1369W, on the Warm Front scheme, what process is used to determine the type of compact fluorescent light bulbs sent to Warm Front customers. [289771]

Mr. Kidney: The type of compact fluorescent light bulb issued to Warm Front customers is a 11 Watt replacement for a 40Watt incandescent light bulb, one of the most common light bulbs used in England.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1369W, on the Warm Front scheme, how many compact fluorescent light bulbs were sent on to each Warm Front customer in the latest period for which figures are available. [289772]

Mr. Kidney: Households eligible for assistance under the Warm Front scheme each receive two compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what support his Department is providing to companies developing low-carbon goods and services. [289849]

Joan Ruddock: DECC provides a range of support to UK companies developing low carbon goods and services. This is part of wider government support offered through Solutions for Business and includes:

£405 million of additional funding for low carbon industries and green manufacturing in the UK as announced in Budget 2009; advice and support through the DECC-funded Carbon Trust for companies developing low carbon goods and services; venture capital for low carbon companies, including through the UK Innovation Investment Fund and the Carbon Trust's investment activities.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr and Mrs R. Allan. [290240]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State replied to my right hon. Friend on 17 March 2009.

National Skills Academy for Nuclear

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department has provided to the National Skills Academy for Nuclear since 3 October 2008; and what funding his Department plans to provide for the Academy in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [289791]

Mr. Kidney: It is not within the remit of the Department of Energy and Climate Change to provide funding to the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN). For the first three years of its operation from 2008, the learning and Skills Council will provide funding to match the amount invested in the Skills Academy by Associate Members. NSAN, like all other National Skills Academies, is expected to become self-sufficient after three years of operation.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is a non-departmental public body which is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The LSC is due to be replaced by the Skills Funding Agency from April 2010.

Natural Gas: Storage

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what requirements the Government places on gas supply companies to hold stocks of gas in storage. [289417]

Mr. Kidney: The level of gas held in storage is primarily a commercial decision made by companies. It is influenced by the commercial judgments of shippers and suppliers on how best to meet their supply requirements; and by the 'cash-out' regime under our gas market governance arrangements, which exposes gas shippers/suppliers to potentially very high cash-out charges for any daily imbalance between the quantities of gas they convey into, and remove from, the gas network.

However, there are safety monitors in place to ensure there is a minimum amount of gas in storage available over the winter, across all storage sites in GB, for the System Operator to operate the system safely at times of emergency.

Nuclear Power

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the average annual level of carbon dioxide emissions produced by a nuclear power plant in the UK. [291347]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The Nuclear White Paper 2008 set out that the lifecycle emissions of nuclear power, including CO_2 emitted during construction, operation and decommissioning of the power station, mining, and transport of fuel, and disposal of waste are in the range of 7-22 g/kWh of electricity generated.

In common with other low-carbon fuel technologies such as wind or hydro, a significant proportion of these lifecycle emissions are derived from the construction and decommissioning phases of the power station's life. There are some CO_2 emissions associated with uranium mining, which are small, and which are incorporated in the overall lifecycle emissions.

The World Nuclear Associated has published analyses of lifecycle CO_2 emissions from nuclear power generation which reported at:

http://www.world-nuclear.org/education/comparativeco2.html

Nuclear Power Stations: Safety

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate has made a decision on the periodic safety review for the Chapelcross nuclear site; and if he will make a statement. [289649]

Mr. Kidney: I understand a decision is expected to be made on 30 October 2009.

Office for Renewable Energy Development

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when he expects the budget for 2009-10 of the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment to be finalised; [289895]

(2) when he expects the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment to become operational. [289896]

Mr. Kidney: The Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) was launched on 15 July 2009. ORED's mission is to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy in order to reduce carbon emissions, increase security of supply and create business opportunities in the UK.

As of August 2009 the budgets available to ORED, including funding allocated to low carbon investment in Budget 2009, are as set out in the following table. In addition, ORED will also be delivering projects funded from the Strategic Investment Fund managed by BIS; this additional funding amounts to up to £135.5 million over the next two years.

ORED Budgets

		£ million
	2009-10	*2010-11*
Administration	7.1	5.8
Programme	13.6	8.9
Capital	38.3	61.2
Total	59.0	75.9

Ofgem

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* seminars and *(b)* workshops (i) have been held and (ii) are planned to be held as part of Ofgem's RPI minus X at 20 review. [289883]

Mr. Kidney: These are matters for Ofgem. I have asked the chairman to respond directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what working groups have been set up as part of Ofgem's RPI minus X at 20 review. [289884]

Mr. Kidney: These are matters for Ofgem. I have asked the chairman to respond directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have had with Ofgem to discuss its RPI minus X at 20 review. [289886]

Mr. Kidney: Ministers have had a number of meetings with Ofgem in the past year to discuss a range of issues including the regulation and development of energy infrastructure.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate has been made by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets of the level of average *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity bills in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) each English region. [289885]

Mr. Kidney: Markets produces estimates of domestic household energy bills. Latest estimates reflect current prices as at June 2009 prices, and are available online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Media/FactSheets/Documentsl/updatedhouseholdbills09.pdf

For an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity and 20,500 kWh of gas per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), June 2009 prices indicate an average annual electricity bill of £445 and the average gas bill was £800. Ofgem does not produce estimates of bills at regional levels.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when Ofgem began its RPI minus X at 20 review; what the timetable of the review is; and if he will make a statement. [289887]

Mr. Kidney: These are matters for Ofgem. I have asked the chairman to respond directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 171W, on energy: consumers, when he expects Ofgem to have completed its consideration of other means which can be used to promote supplier switching. [290028]

Mr. Kidney: Ofgem published its detailed proposals for promoting supplier switching on 7 August 2009. The proposals include better information on bills, annual statements and a customer switching guarantee to simplify the switching process. Some of these will be implemented in October 2009 and the whole package will be in place by April 2010.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with Ofgem on the relationship between domestic energy bills and energy prices; and if he will make a statement. [292386]

Mr. Kidney: DECC Ministers are in regular contact with the regulator on many factors affecting consumer bills. On 18 September Ofgem published its most recent Quarterly Report on wholesale costs and retail prices. These Quarterly Reports were initiated in response to a request from Government and the most recent is the third.

Opinion Polls

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has spent by *(a)* the Energy Saving Trust and *(b)* the Carbon Trust on opinion polling in each of the last five years. [289790]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust do not spend the DECC grant fund on opinion polling. Instead, this activity would be funded using EST corporate funds. Therefore, we are unable to provide these details.

According to the Carbon Trust, they mainly carry out business research but occasionally do consumer opinion polling in specific areas and, in the last five years, have spent an estimated total of £18,000 on this.

Petrol: Prices

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the difference between the average price of a litre of petrol in rural and non-rural areas in each year since 1997. [290258]

Mr. Kidney: DECC do not collect or publish prices of petrol split by rural and non-rural areas.

Data on average monthly UK petrol prices are published in Table 4.1.1 of Quarterly Energy Prices. The latest edition was published in June 2009 and is available online at

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

DECC also publishes weekly UK petrol price data.

Power Failures: Dartford Creek

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received regarding the power cut at Dartford Creek cable bridge on Monday 20 July; and if he will make a statement. [290928]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change did not receive any representations regarding the power cut at Dartford Creek cable bridge on 20 July.

Officials from the Department were in regular contact with EDF Energy Networks and kept Ministers informed throughout the incident.

Public Bodies: Departmental Responsibility

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for which non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible. [291157]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* DECC is responsible for:

Executive NDPBs

Civil Nuclear Police Authority

Coal Authority

Committee on Climate Change

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Advisory NDPBs

Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies

Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

Fuel Poverty Advisory Group

Nuclear Liabilities Financing Assurance Board

Renewables Advisory Board

UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change from which countries *(a)* radioactive waste and *(b)* spent fuel has been received but not yet returned; and what the (i) radioactivity level and (ii) quantity held is in each case. [288420]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* The UK does not allow the import of higher activity radioactive waste, but overseas used nuclear fuel has been received, stored and reprocessed under contract at Sellafield and Dounreay.

All new overseas reprocessing contracts signed since 1976 have contained an option for the radioactive waste arising from such reprocessing to be returned to its country of origin. In 1986 Government took the decision that this option should be exercised.

Sellafield

During this time spent fuel has been received at Sellafield for reprocessing from Japan, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy and Sweden. To date, waste has been returned to Sweden as a result of reprocessing.

High Level Waste will be returned in a solid glass (vitrified) form and preparations are currently under way to make the return of vitrified High Level Waste to overseas customers with reprocessing contracts at Sellafield. Due to commercial constraints we are unable to detail the radioactivity level and quantity held for each customer but the total amount of overseas spent fuel to be reprocessed under new reprocessing contracts signed since 1976 is around 4,500 tonnes.

Dounreay

Reprocessing no longer takes place at Dounreay. Countries from which spent fuel has been received but not yet returned:

Country	*Kg HM (kilograms heavy metal)*
Australia[1]	16.2
Belgium	69.73
Denmark (of Italian origin)	54.30
Georgia[2]	4.36
Germany	746.7
The Netherlands	8.54
Spain[3]	10.84

[1] Australian spent fuel has already been reprocessed and 53 drums of cemented raffinate waste is now held on their behalf. Due to an oversight, Australia was not included in a previous answer given on 1 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 552W

[2] Material received in Dounreay from Georgia will remain in the UK for international security reasons.

[3] Spanish spent fuel has already been reprocessed and the quantity of waste arising was so small (less than one thousandth of a drum of cemented raffinate waste) that it was agreed to retain in the UK. A further batch of spent fuel has also been received from Spain but was sent on, still in the form of spent fuel, to a third overseas party.

UK spent fuel has also been permanently exchanged for a similar amount of French spent fuel under a research and development programme.

It is not possible to give current radioactivity levels for the material in the table above as the levels on receipt would be considerably different from those today. To attempt to calculate notional radioactivity levels from the above weights could give an erroneous result.

Waste will be returned to the countries of origin as required by the fuel reprocessing contracts.

Radioactivity

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the EU red impact project on partitioning, transmutation and waste reduction, on the long-term management of radioactivity in the UK. [291505]

Mr. Kidney: In making recommendations to Government on the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste in 2006, the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) stated that there was

> "no proof of concept for partitioning and transmutation and that the cost would be disproportionate to benefits derived".

This supported the outcome of a study done by the previous Government advisory committee, the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (RWMAC) in 2003.

Government accepted CoRWM's primary recommendations that geological disposal coupled with safe and secure interim storage was the best way forward and set out its framework for implementing geological disposal in the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely White Paper in June 2008.

While Government policy is to pursue geological disposal, the White Paper recognised the need to take account of developments in storage and disposal options, as well as possible new technologies and solutions. The White Paper also set out that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority will keep developments under review and this will include the outputs from the EU Red Impact project in which they have been involved.

Renewable Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost of conducting the consultation on offshore electricity transmission was. [289783]

Mr. Kidney: The Government Impact Assessment (IA), which accompanied the final Offshore Transmission Consultation Document in March 2009, estimated the total cost to DECC and Ofgem in the four years of developing the new offshore transmission regime to be £3.4 million. This included internal staff, technical, legal and economic costs and the costs of consultancy. It covered the development of proposals, drafting instructions for modifications to codes and licences, and including provisions in the Energy Act 2008. The IA also showed the estimated net benefit of the new regime to be £925 million and is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file50576.pdf

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), in its role as GB System Operator Designate, incurred costs of £1.563 million in helping to develop the regime. NGET's costs have been approved as economic and efficient by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority.

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/NETWORKS/OFFTRANS/PDC/CDR/CONS2009/Documentsl/AA5A%20letter%20FINAL.pdf

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress he has made on developing the National Action Plan for the EU Renewable Energy Directive. [289857]

Mr. Kidney: We have recently published our Renewable Energy Strategy for the UK (available in the Library or on the DECC website) setting out the policies and actions we will take to deliver 15 per cent. of our energy from renewable sources by 2020. This will form the basis for the National Action Plan to be submitted to the EU Commission by summer 2010.

Renewable Energy: Recession

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the economic downturn on levels of finance available for the development of renewable energy. [289773]

Mr. Kidney: DECC is in regular contact with the renewables industry and finance community to assess the impact of the downturn on the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies. There are credit constraints in the venture capital markets supporting new technology development and demonstration and similar pressures in funding the deployment of small and medium-sized technologies such as onshore wind. We are working closely with the renewables industry and banks to address the challenges which developers face in accessing finance.

Renewables Deployment Office

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what projects the Renewables Deployment Office *(a)* has undertaken since its establishment and *(b)* plans to undertake. [289777]

Mr. Kidney: The Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED) was launched on 15 July 2009. ORED's mission is to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy in order to reduce carbon emissions, increase security of supply and create business opportunities in the UK.

ORED is responsible for taking forward the commitments in the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy, published in July 2009. This work includes:

Putting in place appropriate financial incentives to support the take-up of renewable energy, including reform of the Renewables Obligation; introducing Feed-in-Tariffs for small-scale electricity; and a new Renewable Heat Incentive;

Overcoming the non-financial barriers to the deployment of wind and other technologies, including supporting reforms to ensure an effective planning system is in place at a local and regional level;

Promoting the use of sustainable bio-energy;

Supporting the cost-effective deployment of wave and tidal technologies, including taking forward the feasibility study on Severn Tidal Power;

Overcoming supply chain blockages and promoting business opportunities in the renewable sector in the UK.

This work involves engaging with a wide range of external stakeholders. To assist with this, the office is recruiting a part-time, non-executive expert chair to liaise with industry and other stakeholders, and help build a strong reputation for ORED as a delivery body.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288945]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering. This included evidence prepared by DECC.

The Commission published its final report on 15 June 2009, which can be found here:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A Steering Group has been established under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Sellafield

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate has received a report from Sellafield Limited on the contamination event which took place on 20 June 2008 at the Sellafield site. [289714]

Mr. Kidney: I can confirm that the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate has received such a report from Sellafield Limited, and that it is satisfied that a thorough investigation has been carried out by the company.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate wrote to Sellafield Limited requesting a revised statement of strategy for the future safe storage of highly active liquor; whether a reply has been received; and if he will make a statement. [289715]

Mr. Kidney: I can confirm that such a letter was written on 11 February 2008. Sellafield Limited's responses have formed part of its biennial submissions to HSE's Nuclear Directorate both last year and this year. A summary of the Nuclear Directorate's initial assessment was reported to the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group earlier this year, and the Nuclear Directorate will continue to report progress to that group, and post these reports on HSE's website.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of specification 679 issued by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate in relation to the holding of highly active liquor at Sellafield. [289716]

Mr. Kidney: Yes.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 86W, on industrial health and safety: Sellafield, on what dates Nuclear Installation Inspectorate specifications numbers 324, 325 and 326 were issued; [290022]

(2) what the due date is for each Nuclear Installation Inspectorate specification; [290023]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of Nuclear Installation Inspectorate specifications numbers 324, 325 and 326; [290024]

(4) if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to Sellafield Ltd of 29 September 2008. [290025]

Mr. Kidney: Specification numbers 324, 325 and 326 were issued on 4 August 2000 and a copy of each will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The due date for each of the specifications is as follows:

Specification 324:

Part (a) by 1 August 2004 (completed).

Part (b) by 1 August 2004 (completed).

Part (c) by 1 August 2010

Part (d) by 1 August 2016.

Specification 325:

Part (a) by 1 August 2009;.

Part (b) by 1 August 2010.

Specification 326:

Part (a) by 1 August 2020.

Part (b) by 1 August 2020.

A copy of the letter to Sellafield Ltd. dated 29 September 2008 will be placed in the Libraries of the House in response to UIN 290025.

Sustainable Development

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to implement the recommendations of the Sustainable Development Commission's report Prosperity without growth? The transition to a sustainable economy, which fall within its responsibility. [289794]

Joan Ruddock: The Sustainable Development Commission's report contains one recommendation on which DECC leads: "Imposing Clearly Defined Resource/emission Caps". The Climate Change Act commits the Government to reductions in emissions of at least 80 per cent. by 2050, and creates a system of five-year carbon budgets to ensure this target is delivered. The level of the first three carbon budgets (2008-22) was set through secondary legislation in May 2009. The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan, published in July 2009, sets out how the first three carbon budgets will be delivered. Delivery of the carbon budgets is enabled by policies including trading schemes which set specific caps, in particular the European Emissions Trading System which covers about half of UK emissions, and the forthcoming Carbon Reduction Commitment.

Warm Front Scheme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1369W, on the Warm Front Scheme, what average sum was paid by Eaga to its suppliers for *(a)* energy efficiency light bulbs, *(b)* draught proofing and *(c)* hot water tank jackets in the latest period for which figures are available. [289723]

Mr. Kidney: The prices paid by Eaga to its suppliers are commercially confidential.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households have received a product of financial value through the Warm Front scheme in each year since 2002. [289793]

Mr. Kidney: The number of households assisted through the Warm Front scheme in each year since 2002 is set out in the following table:

Scheme year	*Number of households assisted*
2002-03	219,328
2003-04	188,974
2004-05	208,084
2005-06	173,184
2006-07	253,079
2007-08	268,900
2008-09	233,594

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the amount of Eaga's Warm Front hardship fund has been in each year since 2000. [289880]

Mr. Kidney: Since 2006 Eaga plc has provided financial assistance to some of those Warm Front clients who were unable to meet the cost of an excess contribution required for work to be done. The amounts spent by Eaga, in this respect, in each year since 2006 are provided in the following table:

	Fund (£000)
2006-07	759
2007-08	1,262
2008-09	914
Total	2,935

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects mid-contract renegotiations with Eaga on the Warm Front scheme to have been completed; and if he will make a statement. [289881]

Mr. Kidney: I refer the hon. Member to my letter of 21 July 2009 concerning the contract to manage the Warm Front Scheme between the Department and Eaga. I will arrange for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 333W, on the Warm Front scheme, what process was used to select Procuritas to review his Department's management of its contract with Eaga. [290030]

Mr. Kidney: The appointment of Procuritas was undertaken following a review by DEFRA policy, legal and procurement advisors of those organisations with the capacity, skills and resource able to complete the work to the required timescale.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 333W, on the Warm Front scheme, what the monetary value is of the contract between his Department and Procuritas. [290031]

Mr. Kidney: This information is commercially confidential.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 333W, on the Warm Front scheme, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between his Department and Procuritas. [290032]

Mr. Kidney: This information is commercially confidential.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 503W, on the Warm Front scheme, what the average cost of supplying energy-efficient light bulbs is to a customer who receives only that service under the Warm Front scheme. [290033]

Mr. Kidney: The cost of providing two compact fluorescent light bulbs under the Warm Front Scheme is currently £8.32 per household.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 503W, on the Warm Front scheme, which months were included in the calculation of the figures given for 2008-09. [290034]

Mr. Kidney: The figures given for 2008-09 covered the period 1 April 2008 to 31 January 2009.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of [illegible]0 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 410W, on the Warm Front scheme, at which point in the procurement process his Department ceases to be a party to the contract for the supply of heating materials used in Warm Front scheme installations. [290277]

Mr. Kidney: The responsibility for the procurement of heating materials used under the scheme lies with Eaga plc, the scheme administrator.

The Department was party to the contracts for the supply of heating materials until they were novated to Eaga plc. The dates at which the contracts with each contracted supplier were novated to Eaga were 1 April 2008 and 2 March 2009 for Wolseley and Graham Group respectively.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who undertook contractual inspection work under the Warm Front Scheme before the inception of the technical inspector qualification; and how many people have obtained that qualification. [291833]

Mr. Kidney: Prior to September 2009, 76 individuals had undertaken inspection work for Warm Front.

By 1 May 2010 all Warm Front inspectors will require a higher level of Gas Safe qualification. The process of assessing training requirements of current inspectors is still underway.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will commission a review of Eaga's performance in carrying out its contractual obligations for the Warm Front scheme; and if he will make a statement. [291131]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* DECC has recently completed a review of the contract with the main contractor and Scheme administrator, Eaga plc. This has resulted in a revised set of contractual arrangements between DECC and Eaga which will result in increased value for money and improvements in the service Warm Front provides to its customers.

DECC performs monthly reviews of Eaga's performance against contractual service level indicators. In addition DECC commissions regular audits to ensure Warm Front is delivered in accordance with contractual requirements.

Warm Front Scheme: Inspections

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to an individual to train for the qualification of technical inspector for the Warm Front scheme; and if he will make a statement. [291062]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* At present all Warm Front gas heating inspectors are required to have the Gas Safe CCN1 certification. However, from 1 May 2010, all inspectors will be required to have full Gas Safe registration. The employment of inspectors is undertaken by Eaga plc, in their role as main contractor and Scheme Administrator. DECC has made no estimate of the costs involved in training these inspectors.

Waste Management

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with local authorities on the implications for their energy-from-waste facilities of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy published on 15 July 2009. [291987]

Mr. Kidney: DECC officials meet regularly with local authorities and DEFRA officials to discuss a range of climate and energy issues, including energy-from-waste.

Local authorities have a key leadership role in successfully delivering the UK Renewable Energy Strategy and diverting increasing levels of waste from landfill into reuse, recycling and energy recovery.

Wave Power

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding his Department and its predecessors have provided for the development of marine energy technologies since 2003. [289650]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has previously provided support totalling £35 million for the industry-led development of marine energy technologies through the former DTI Technology Programme—now administered by the Technology Strategy Board—and support of £9 million for high quality basic science through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's 'Supergen Marine' consortium.

DECC has its own support scheme in place for the commercial demonstration of wave and tidal stream technologies—the £50 million Marine Renewables Deployment Fund (MRDF). We are now in the process of designing, in conjunction with the sector, a new £22 million Marine Renewables Proving Fund as announced in Low Carbon Transition Plan.

DECC has also supported the development of marine energy technology through investing in testing facilities such as the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) and the New and Renewable Energy Centre (NaREC). The Government recently announced a package of measures in its Low Carbon Transition Plan that further investment would be made in upgrading and expanding the testing facilities at EMEC (£8 million) and NaREC (£10 million), together with an increase of its contribution towards the planned Wave Hub project off the coast of Cornwall to £9.5 million.

DECC is also contributing to a £534,000 fund to support the development of embryonic technologies for a possible Severn tidal power scheme.

Under the Renewables Obligation wave and tidal energy suppliers will receive two Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs) for each MWh of eligible generation produced.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many operational marine power schemes are connected to the electricity grid; and what the *(a)* generating capacity and *(b)* quantity of electricity generated by each in 2008 was. [289653]

Mr. Kidney: The information requested is as follows:

(a) There were three marine energy devices connected to the electricity grid in 2008.

Wavegen—500 kW

SeaGen—1.2 MW

Open Hydro—250 kW

(b) The following figures are taken from the Ofgem Renewables register.

Wavegen (now Voith Hydro Wavegen) "Limpet" device deployed on the Isle of Islay generated 42 MWh.

SeaGen—owned by Sea Generation Ltd/Marine Current Turbines and deployed in Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland generated 13 MWh.

Open Hydro, deployed at the European Marine Energy Centre, Orkney are not accredited for the Renewables Obligation and no data is available for 2008.

Wind Power

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 June, *Official Report*, columns 60-62WS, on the Offshore Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment, what estimate he has made of the number of offshore wind turbines that will be constructed in each year until 2020. [289615]

Mr. Kidney: The actual number and rate of offshore turbines deployed each year will depend on choices made by the market relating to the timing and location specifics of construction for individual projects, as well as the size and type of turbines chosen.

On the basis of the Government's plan for some 25GW by 2020 referred to in the ministerial statement of 24 June, we might expect to see between 5,000-7,000 turbines constructed over the period to 2020. Along with existing plans for some 8GW of offshore wind generation already at various stages of planning, the total number of turbines deployed offshore could be around 10,000 turbines by 2020. Advances in technology may mean that in future there could be fewer, but larger, turbines deployed.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with industry representatives on the temporary increase of support for offshore wind through the Renewables Obligation. [289724]

Mr. Kidney: DECC officials and Ministers have regular discussions and meetings with the offshore wind industry, both individually and collectively, concerning the deployment of offshore wind. These can cover generic issues or can be in relation to specific projects' particular concerns around for example planning, and grid access. Recent meetings with industry representatives have involved discussions about whether there is a need for an increase in support for offshore wind through the Renewables Obligation.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the evidential basis is for the proposed criteria for selecting offshore wind projects to receive temporary increases in support under the Renewables Obligation. [289725]

Mr. Kidney: The evidential basis for launching a review of the level of support for offshore wind under the Renewables Obligation is the report "Cost of and financial support for offshore wind", produced for DECC by Ernst and Young, and available at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51142.pdf

The proposed criteria for determining eligibility for any increase in support are subject to consultation, and we have welcomed views and further evidence as part of the consultation process which closes on 15 October.

Wylfa Power Station

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate's investigation into the event on 6 August

2008 at Wylfa nuclear power station when graphite samples were withdrawn with the reactor at full power; and if he will make a statement. [289720]

Mr. Kidney: The investigation by the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Directorate into this incident is complete. The incident is classified as level 1 under the International Atomic Energy Agency's International Nuclear Events Scale. This level is defined as "an anomaly beyond the authorised operating regime" and is one class above the lowest category of 0. The facility operator, Magnox North Ltd, is legally obliged by its nuclear site licence to provide adequate arrangements for investigating incidents on the site and conducted an investigation into the August 2008 incident. In line with its established policy for such incidents, the Nuclear Directorate's investigation consisted of a review of Magnox North Ltd's own investigation, which it supplemented with further scrutiny of the cause of the incident during the 2009 planned outage of the facility. The Directorate's conclusion was that Magnox North Ltd had dealt with the incident satisfactorily. The key change made as a result of the investigation was that Magnox North Ltd put in place arrangements to improve compliance with all the requirements of the safety case for Wylfa nuclear power station.

HOME DEPARTMENT

62 South Eaton Place

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 310W, on 62 Eaton Place, on what date the searches contained in the home information pack for 62 South Eaton Place were *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* produced; and what assessment has been made of the duration of the validity of the results of such searches. [291079]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: Preparation of the Home Information Pack was commissioned in summer 2008 and completed on 19 September 2008. There is no legal requirement to update the pack and marketing of the property does not require it.

Alcohlolic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder in relation to the sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years of age were issued in each police force area in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; what the average fine levied in each police force area was in each such year; and how many such fines have not been paid. [290691]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued in England and Wales for the sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18 years of age in 2006 and 2007 (latest available), by Police Force Area and outcome, can be found in the following tables. (The Ministry of Justice publish PND data by calendar year rather than by financial year).

The offence, which attracts a fixed penalty of £80, was added to the Scheme in November 2004. 21 days is the minimum period before which forces can register a fine against the recipient for not responding to a notice, so forces can accept payments after the Suspended Enforcement Period for administrative purposes. From the data held centrally, it is not possible to separately identify the fine amounts registered nor the number of unpaid fines.

PND data for 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009.

Table 1: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued and outcomes for the offence "Sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18", England and Wales, broken down by Police force area, 2006[1]

		Outcome						
Police force area	*Issued*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*Fine registered*	*Court hearing requested*	*PND cancelled*	*Potential prosecution*	*Outcome unknown*
Avon and Somerset	54	47	3	4	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	13	9	—	4	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	29	28	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	50	42	4	4	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	23	18	2	2	—	1	—	—
Cumbria	21	16	3	2	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	30	25	2	2	—	1	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	115	91	9	10	—	2	3	—
Dorset	29	22	2	4	1	—	—	—
Durham	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	94	78	4	12	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	54	38	10	6	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	211	141	38	31	—	—	1	—
Hampshire	109	85	14	8	—	1	1	—
Hertfordshire	41	38	—	2	—	1	—	—
Humberside	48	32	12	4	—	—	—	—
Kent	5	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	206	155	24	26	1	—	—	—
Leicestershire	59	49	—	8	—	2	—	—
Lincolnshire	57	40	10	7	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	127	91	21	12	—	1	2	—

Table 1: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued and outcomes for the offence "Sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18", England and Wales, broken down by Police force area, 2006[1]

		Outcome						
Police force area	*Issued*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*Fine registered*	*Court hearing requested*	*PND cancelled*	*Potential prosecution*	*Outcome unknown*
Metropolitan Police	252	164	59	23	—	6	—	—
Norfolk	10	8	1	1	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	34	23	5	6	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	84	57	8	13	—	6	—	—
North Yorkshire	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	265	185	38	41	—	—	1	—
South Yorkshire	158	124	14	16	—	4	—	—
Staffordshire	75	56	12	7	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	21	16	3	2	—	—	—	—
Surrey	34	29	3	2	—	—	—	—
Sussex	216	167	22	24	1	1	—	1
Thames Valley	95	74	11	8	—	2	—	—
Warwickshire	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	34	27	5	2	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	143	97	22	23	1	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	105	72	9	22	—	—	2	—
Wiltshire	18	13	—	4	—	1	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	9	6	2	1	—	—	—	—
Gwent	50	31	4	12	—	1	—	2
North Wales	83	54	8	20	1	—	—	—
South Wales	117	87	16	13	1	—	—	—
England and Wales	3,195	2,354	402	390	6	30	10	3

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued and outcomes for the offence "Sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18", England and Wales, broken down by Police Force Area, 2007[1]

		Outcome						
	Issued	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*Fine registered*	*Court hearing requested*	*PND cancelled*	*Potential prosecution*	*Outcome unknown*
Avon and Somerset	60	43	11	4	—	2	—	—
Bedfordshire	13	12	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	22	21	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	26	21	3	2	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	65	48	9	7	1	—	—	—
Cumbria	40	29	9	2	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	101	66	13	16	—	6	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	69	51	11	4	—	2	1	—
Dorset	35	30	4	1	—	—	—	—
Durham	25	20	4	1	—	—	—	—
Essex	111	88	16	5	—	2	—	—
Gloucestershire	86	72	8	6	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	141	104	22	15	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	205	161	24	18	—	1	1	—
Hertfordshire	67	54	6	5	—	2	—	—
Humberside	98	55	26	14	2	1	—	—
Kent	23	14	5	3	—	—	1	—
Lancashire	190	129	25	31	3	2	—	—
Leicestershire	150	127	—	23	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	54	36	10	7	—	1	—	—
Merseyside	175	120	28	26	—	—	1	—
Metropolitan Police	341	270	—	39	—	29	3	—
Norfolk	36	19	9	6	—	2	—	—
Northamptonshire	22	13	5	3	—	1	—	—
Northumbria	67	40	16	9	—	2	—	—
North Yorkshire	25	18	2	5	—	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	168	118	18	30	1	1	—	—
South Yorkshire	159	116	16	22	—	4	1	—
Staffordshire	67	49	11	7	—	—	—	—

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued and outcomes for the offence "Sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18", England and Wales, broken down by Police Force Area, 2007[1]

		Outcome							
	Issued	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*Fine registered*	*Court hearing requested*	*PND cancelled*	*Potential prosecution*	*Outcome unknown*
Suffolk	20	17	—	3	—	—	—	—
Surrey	72	53	10	8	1	—	—	—
Sussex	119	85	14	18	—	2	—	—
Thames Valley	131	104	13	9	1	4	—	—
Warwickshire	37	29	5	3	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	36	29	5	2	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	135	80	40	12	—	1	2	—
West Yorkshire	161	119	18	9	—	3	12	—
Wiltshire	24	22	—	1	1	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	20	14	5	1	—	—	—	—
Gwent	71	42	19	9	—	1	—	—
North Wales	63	44	6	10	3	—	—	—
South Wales	53	41	5	7	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	3,583	2,623	451	465	13	69	22	—

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* cautioned for selling alcohol to a person under the age of 18 years in each police force area in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [290692]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to Table 2 in the answer I gave on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1024W. Data for 2008 will be available in autumn 2009.

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visits to animal testing facilities have been undertaken by staff in his Department in each of the last three years. [290351]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of visits made by Home Office staff to establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in each of the last three years was as follows:

	Visits
2006	2,382
2007	2,402
2008	2,090

All but four of these visits were undertaken by members of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate.

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 carried out in Scotland in 2008 were conducted without anaesthesia. [291589]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There were a total of 555,567 regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2008 of which 376,937 (68 per cent.) used no form of anaesthesia.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in force in Scotland at the end of 2008 were in the *(a)* mild, *(b)* moderate, *(c)* substantial and *(d)* unclassified severity banding. [291590]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During 2008, in Scotland, 39 per cent. of the project licences granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were in the mild severity banding, 57 per cent. in moderate, one per cent. in substantial and three per cent. were unclassified.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* mice, *(b)* rats, *(c)* guinea pigs, *(d)* hamsters, *(e)* rabbits, *(f)* horses and other equids, *(g)* sheep, *(h)* pigs, *(i)* birds, *(j)* amphibians, *(k)* reptiles, *(l)* fish, *(m)* cats, *(n)* dogs, *(o)* New World primates and *(p)* Old World primates were used in procedures conducted in Scotland and regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2008. [291591]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During 2008, in Scotland, there were 290,081 mice, 49,009 rats, 2,428 guinea pigs, 688 hamsters, 2,571 rabbits, nine horses and other equids, 4,802 sheep, 883 pigs, 6,193 birds, 383 amphibians, 184,335 fish, eight cats, 994 dogs, 30 new world primates and 899 old world primates used in regulated procedures started under the 1986 Act. No reptiles were used.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual animals were used in procedures regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2008. [291592]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During 2008, in Scotland, there were 544,949 animals used in regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were conducted in Scotland in 2008 involved *(a)* cats, *(b)* dogs, *(c)* rabbits, *(d)* horses and other equids, *(e)* New World primates and *(f)* Old World primates which (i) were genetically modified and (ii) had a harmful genetic defect. [291820]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In 2008 there were no such procedures in Scotland nor in Great Britain as a whole (Table 3, Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2008, available from the Library of the House and from the Department's website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/scientific1.html.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were conducted in Scotland in 2008 were carried out for *(a)* fundamental and applied studies other than toxicology and *(b)* toxicity tests or other safety and efficacy evaluation. [291821]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During 2008, in Scotland, the number of regulated procedures started for non-toxicological purposes under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 was 500,133 (90 per cent.), and the number started for toxicological purposes was 55,434 (10 per cent.).

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were conducted in Scotland in 2008 were performed in *(a)* public health laboratories, *(b)* universities and medical schools, *(c)* national health service hospitals, *(d)* Government Departments, *(e)* other public bodies, *(f)* non-profit making organisations and *(g)* commercial organisations. [291822]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During 2008, in Scotland the total number of procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 was 555,567. Of these, 417,734 or 75 per cent. were carried out at Universities or Medical Schools, 26,823 or 5 per cent at Government Departments, 52,100 or 9 per cent. at other public bodies, and 58.910 or 11 per cent. at commercial organisations. None were started at public health laboratories, NHS hospitals or non-profit making organisations.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out in Scotland in 2008. [291824]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2008 was 555,567.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* genetically modified animals and *(b)* animals with a harmful genetic defect were used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were conducted in Scotland in 2008. [291825]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A total of 544,949 animals were used in regulated procedures started under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in 2008, of which 177,221 were genetically modified and 15,238 were animals with a harmful genetic defect.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders in each category are in force in relation to residents in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire. [289430]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The latest available published data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007 and are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Hertfordshire Criminal Justice System area on application and the number issued following conviction is 58 and 156 respectively, a total of 214.

ASBOs can be of a fixed duration (for a minimum of two years) or made until further order. It is therefore not possible to determine from centrally collected data how many ASBOs are in force at a particular point in time.

Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the use of control orders in the UK. [291710]

Mr. Hanson: The effectiveness of all current control orders is regularly kept under review to ensure that they, and the obligations they impose, remain necessary and proportionate, and that the control order regime more generally is as effective as possible. I would refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement in relation to control orders published on 16 September 2009 which provides an update on the review of the control order regime in the light of the recent House of Lords' judgment in AF and others.

Assaults on Police: Police Community Support Officers

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on police community support officers while on duty were recorded in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [289158]

Mr. Hanson: Data for the numbers of assaults on police officers and operational police staff for 2003-04 and 2004-05 can be found in the HMIC Annual Report 2004-05, available in the Library of the House.

These data are not available by individual rank and therefore appear in the report as a combined figure for officers, PCSOs and other operational support staff.

Data for the numbers of assaults on police community support officers for 2005-06 to 2007-08 are also available in the House Library.

Assaults data are collected on behalf on Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary who use the data for inspection purposes and have agreed to the release of these figures.

Asylum

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been refused asylum or leave to remain in the UK but cannot be removed because *(a)* they are from a country to which removals are not being enforced and *(b)* his Department has not been able to obtain travel documents to enable their return since the Case Resolution Directorate was set up; and how many of those people are residing in the UK without a right to work or recourse to public funds. [288711]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to compile data on the number of people who fall into the requested categories after the refusal of their case. While the UK Border Agency produces regular statistics on the number of cases concluded over a specified period of time (the chief executive of the UK Border Agency, Lin Homer, updates the Home Affairs Select Committee twice a year on work to clear the historic backlog of unresolved asylum cases by summer 2011; a copy of Ms Homer's letter of 7 July 2009 is in the Library of the House), a case is only regarded as 'concluded' at the point where the individual/s has/have either been granted some form of leave or been removed from the UK. To extract data on the number of applications (including both asylum and non-asylum case types) which have been refused but not yet concluded would require the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers in receipt of housing and financial support have waited more than one year for an initial interview; and if he will make a statement. [289989]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not collate data on the length of time that asylum seekers have to wait for their asylum interview to take place. This information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by undertaking a search of case records relating to all applications by supported asylum seekers which remain outstanding at the present time.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what percentage of Christian asylum seekers have been granted asylum in each of the last five years; [291502]

(2) what percentage of Muslim asylum seekers have been granted asylum in each of the last five years. [291503]

Mr. Woolas: The available management information on the percentage of initial decisions which were grants of asylum on applications for asylum made by people recorded as being Christian or Muslim is given in the following table:

Asylum grants as percentage of initial decisions, 2007-09[1]

			Percentage
	2007	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Applicants who are Christian	26	26	25
Applicants who are Muslim	17	13	11

[1] January to date.

Note:

Figures relate to initial decisions in these years based on first time main asylum applicants only. Religion is based on information ascertained from the applicant. Christian and Muslim figures are based on all practices within each faith. The percentage figures represent asylum (Refugee Leave) grants only and exclude Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave. Asylum grants could have been made on any of the criteria in the 1951 UN Refugee Convention—i.e. not restricted to religious persecution.

These figures are compiled from internal management information and do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Asylum: Afghanistan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Afghan nationals are seeking asylum. [291828]

Mr. Woolas: In last full year for which the statistics are available (2008), 3,505 principal applicants from Afghanistan applied for asylum. 2008 figures are provisional.

Information on asylum applications is published annually and quarterly in the Control of Immigration statistical bulletins. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Afghan nationals have been given permission to remain in the UK in each of the last five years. [291829]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables show the number of Afghan nationals given permission to stay in each of the last five years (2004 to 2008), according to their immigration status (i.e. asylum-related grants, grants of an extension of leave to remain and grants of settlement).

Further statistics on immigration control are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Table 1: Asylum grants[1, 2] on initial decision[3] for nationals of Afghanistan

	Grants of asylum	*Grants of humanitarian protection*	*Grants of discretionary leave*	*Total*
2004	35	10	410	450
2005	30	20	445	500
2006	40	*	760	805
2007	85	10	790	885
2008[4]	100	10	875	990

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] Excludes dependants.
[3] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[4] Provisional.

Table 2: Grants of an extension of leave to remain[1, 2] in the United Kingdom for nationals of Afghanistan

	Number of grants
2004	165
2005	125
2006	155
2007	355
2008[3]	425

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Excludes dependants of principal applicants, asylum related decisions and withdrawn applications.
[3] Provisional.
Note:
Includes reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.

Table 3: Grants of settlement[1, 2, 3, 4] in the United Kingdom for nationals of Afghanistan

	Number of persons
2004	1,405
2005	9,215
2006	7,395
2007	3,165
2008[5]	2,915

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Includes dependants, reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.
[3] Also includes asylum-related cases and therefore may include persons counted in Table 1.
[4] Data from 2003 exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.
[5] Provisional.

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have been returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo in each of the last five years. [290015]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of asylum cases who were removed or departed voluntarily from the United Kingdom to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between January 2004 and March 2009.

Figures for the second quarter of 2009 was published on 27 August 2009.

During 2008, enforced removals of asylum cases to the Democratic Republic of Congo were deferred until a Court of Appeal judgment, which was handed down on 3 December.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1] of asylum cases[2] to the Democratic Republic of Congo, January 2004 to March 2009

	Number of departures[3, 4]					
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[5]*	*2008[5]*	*January to March 2009[5]*
Principal asylum cases[6]	15	40	105	120	40	20
Of which:						
Nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo	15	35	95	115	35	15
Other nationals	—	10	10	5	5	*
Dependant asylum cases	—	*	10	30	5	5
Of which:						
Nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo	—	—	10	30	5	5
Other nationals	—	*	—	—	—	—
Total asylum cases	15	45	115	145	45	20
Of which:						
Nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo	15	35	105	140	40	20
Other nationals	—	10	10	5	5	*

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] Includes persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[3] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken.
[4] Destination as recorded on source database.
[5] Provisional figures. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.
[6] Figures exclude dependants.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum from residents of the Democratic Republic of Congo have been rejected in each of the last five years. [290016]

Mr. Woolas: Asylum information on residents of the Democratic Republic of Congo is unavailable. However, the number of principal asylum applicants, who were refused asylum at initial decision, from nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo were 1,540 in 2004, 985 in 2005, 470 in 2006, 315 in 2007 and 185 in 2008 (figures are rounded to the nearest five and 2007 and 2008 are provisional).

Information on asylum decisions is published annually and quarterly. The latest version was published on 27 August 2009 and is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applicants were removed from the UK under the terms of the Dublin Convention in 2008. [291426]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 September 2009]:* In 2008, under the Dublin Convention and Dublin Regulations II, 1,242 asylum seekers were removed.

These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. These data are provisional and may be subject to change.

Asylum: Females

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women considered to be at risk were accepted via the Gateway resettlement programme in each of the last five years. [291804]

Alan Johnson: UNHCR refers refugees to UKBA for resettlement consideration under a number of different categories including woman at risk. UKBA does not keep a record of the breakdown by resettlement category of refugees accepted via the Gateway programme.

Since 2008 for internal purposes a record has however been kept of the number of refugees referred by UNHCR to UKBA under the category of woman at risk. In calendar year 2008, 46 cases (150 refugees in total) were resettled under the Gateway Programme who had been referred under the category of woman at risk.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Asylum: Gender

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effects of his Department's introduction of gender guidelines on the asylum procedure. [291553]

Alan Johnson: The Asylum Instruction entitled "Gender Issues in the Asylum Claim" was introduced in early 2004. The instruction provides guidance to caseworkers considering claims for asylum where sexual or gender identity-related issues have been raised. The UKBA quality audit team checks compliance with all UKBA instructions in a proportion of decisions. This includes where relevant, whether the decision maker has followed the instruction on gender. The result of each audit is fed back to decision makers and managers to ensure quality of decisions improves and the quality team make additional recommendations on any issues which they feel impact on quality at national level to ensure these can be addressed.

Asylum: Religion

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those who sought asylum cited a life threatening response to a change in religion as the main or a contributory factor in their application in each of the last five years. [290193]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not collate data on the reasons why individuals have claimed asylum. The requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of case files belonging to individuals who have claimed asylum in each of the last five years.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Asylum Statistics United Kingdom and the Asylum Bulletin are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision is made for those seeking asylum to have their initial interview conducted by a person of a specific religious affiliation. [290194]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency case owners are trained to deal professionally and impartially with all types of asylum applications and a case owner's faith should have no bearing upon his or her handling of an application. It would not be practical or desirable to exclude case owners from interviewing applicants due to the faith of either party. The UK Border Agency values the diversity of its workforce and it would be unacceptable to discriminate against those of a certain faith or ethnic background.

Asylum: Scotland

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were supported in accommodation in each Parliamentary constituency in Scotland on the latest date for which figures are available. [289988]

Mr. Woolas: Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. The Quarterly Control of Immigration Statistics Q2 2009 and the annual Control of Immigration Statistics 2008 were published on 27 August 2009 and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The breakdown of immigration statistics by parliamentary constituency is available from the Library of the House.

Asylum seekers supported in accommodation[1, 2, 3] in Scotland by parliamentary constituency, as at end of March 2009

Parliamentary constituency name[4]	*Number*
Edinburgh East	*
Edinburgh North and Leith	*
Glasgow Central	325

Asylum seekers supported in accommodation[1, 2, 3] in Scotland by parliamentary constituency, as at end of March 2009

Parliamentary constituency name[4]	*Number*
Glasgow East	310
Glasgow North	160
Glasgow North East	1,330
Glasgow North West	505
Glasgow South	280
Glasgow South West	390
Other[5]	15
Scotland Total	2,990

[1] Provisional figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest 5 with "*" = 1 or 2. Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Excludes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children supported by local authorities, estimated around 4,500 in March 2009.

[3] Excludes those in initial accommodation, 1,250 as at end of March 2009.

[4] Only those parliamentary constituencies where dispersed cases are resident are shown.

[5] Local authorities with fewer than 15 cases, when rounded, are grouped by region as "Other".

Asylum: Sri Lanka

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from Sri Lankan nationals in *(a)* May 2003, *(b)* May 2005, *(c)* May 2007 and *(d)* May 2009. [291427]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The number of asylum applications received from Sri Lankan principal applicants were *(a)* 100 in May 2003 *(b)* 35 in May 2005 *(c)* 100 in May 2007 and *(d)* 95 in May 2009. As is usual with the presentation of these statistics, all figures are rounded to the nearest five. 2009 figures are provisional.

Information on asylum applications is published annually and quarterly in the Control of Immigration statistical bulletins. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Borders: Personal Records

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on check-in times at airports of the introduction of the e-borders system. [290647]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* E-Borders is already receiving data for inbound and outbound services from a diverse range of carriers, and has been, on a pilot basis, since January 2005.

The UK Border Agency considered the potential for delays at check-in when developing its 'impact assessment' in the provision of passenger, service and crew data, by carriers.

It concluded that the overall impact would be negligible. The growing trend within the industry is towards the sale of tickets and collection of data upstream, before the passenger arrives at the airport. The e-Borders system has been developed in consultation with the industry to cater for this trend.

The advance submission of TDI enables carriers to consider the options for the collection of the information that suits their business models and that will not extend check in times.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effects on ferry passengers of the implementation of his Department's e-borders system. [290648]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The operational model for ferry traffic presents unique challenges in all locations. In recognition of this, we have focused on aviation in the first phase of the e-Borders rollout, to allow ferry operators time to prepare for implementation. We have established a Maritime Carrier Connectivity Working Group to examine cross cutting issues, as we have done with the aviation industry and we will continue to progress implementation with individual carriers via one-to-one meetings.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what pilot programmes his Department conducted in respect of the e-borders system; and what assessment was made of each such programme. [290649]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Project Semaphore was launched in November 2004 and was commissioned to run for 39 months to provide an operational prototype to trial e-Borders concepts and technology in order to inform and de-risk the e-Borders solution.

Project Semaphore demonstrated the value that advance passenger information adds to safety and security. This enables the UK authorities to intervene in a timely and proportionate manner, where an individual is identified as posing a risk. The Semaphore system captured data on over 53 million passenger movements from January 2005 to April 2008. Semaphore delivered significant successes to all border agencies, generating over 22,000 operational alerts resulting in over 1,700 arrests and other interventions in addition to significant counter terrorism benefits.

The Semaphore legacy system was transferred to operational business in April 2008 and is now managed by the e-Borders service provider, Trusted Borders and forms a key initial part of the main e-Borders' solution.

Project IRIS, a pilot biometric automated barrier entry system for pre-registered passengers at selected ports in the UK. It was piloted from June 2005 to May 2006. IRIS enrolment stations and gates are available at all five Heathrow terminals and at Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham airports.

IRIS was transferred to the operational business in July 2007. As of August 2009, over 326,000 persons are enrolled on the system, generating over 2 million crossings.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the cost to *(a)* the airline industry and *(b)* airline passengers of the implementation of his Department's e-borders system. [290693]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The potential financial costs to the aviation industry of implementing the data collection requirements of the e-Borders Programme were analysed as part of a regulatory impact assessment published in January 2008.

It will be a commercial decision for the carriers as to whether they pass this cost on to the passengers.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department had spent on its e-borders project on 1 July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [290906]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The gross cost to Government of e-Borders. not including fee income, for the period from the start of the procurement phase (September 2005) through to 1 July 2009, was £300 million.

British Nationality: Assessments

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of people *(a)* applying for citizenship and *(b)* applying for settlement passed the Knowledge of Life Test in each quarter since its inception. [291839]

Mr. Woolas: The figures requested by the hon. Member are as follows. These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

	Citizenship		*Settlement*	
	Passes	*Pass rate (percentage)*	*Passes*	*Pass rate (percentage)*
4th quarter 2005 (from 1 November)	5,249	71.0	—	—
1st quarter 2006	20,755	69.4	—	—
2nd quarter 2006	24,537	68.1	—	—
3rd quarter 2006	29,708	67.4	—	—
4th quarter 2006	30,402	66.2	—	—
1st quarter 2007	54,725	70.1	—	—
2nd quarter 2007	44,237	64.8	26,898	76.3
3rd quarter 2007	26,130	65.7	23,332	74.4
4th quarter 2007	19,364	68.4	18,561	76.1
1st quarter 2008	29,446	70.2	24,004	76.6
2nd quarter 2008	24,921	68.9	23,356	75.6
3rd quarter 2008	17,247	66.2	22,311	74.2
4th quarter 2008	14,974	68.7	20,911	76.0
1st quarter 2009	18,227	70.2	24,307	77.8
2nd quarter 2009	13,796	69.1	22,963	78.3
3rd quarter 2009 (to 31 August)	9,506	72.2	14,083	78.6

Contracts

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts let by his Department in the last 12 months were related to the immigration casework database; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [290905]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Immigration Case Work programme stems from the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) review in 2006, which identified that the business has had to operate with systems that were not designed to cope with the scale of change and business volumes experienced in recent years.

The programme's vision is to deliver a new immigration case working capability that will enable the UK Border Agency to operate with the levels of efficiency and service found in leading case working organisations. This will be achieved by delivering radical changes to business processes and improvements to the enabling IT systems. The programme has adopted recognised leading practice by scheduling the development and roll-out of the new systems over time; from the first pilot release in March 2009 to replacement of the legacy systems for protection in 2013 (as discussed with the Committee for Public Accounts earlier this year). The phased approach also ensures that the Agency can afford to fund the programme as part of its business plan. The programme is within budget.

In the last 12 months, the following contracts with their monetary values were let in relation to the new immigration casework database, Integrity.

Notes:

1. The following figures only cover IT contracts awarded by ICW, excluding contractors and consultants.

2. The monetary values exclude VAT.

Contract	*Monetary value of contract excluding VAT, gross figure (£)*
ATOS Origin IT Services UK Limited	472,151
ATOS Origin IT Services UK Limited	6,748,997
CA PLC	64,034
CESG	15,000
DELL Corporation Limited	12,781,709
DWP (Shared Services)	722,059
Field Fisher Waterhouse	420,001
Fujitsu Services (Alcedo) Limited	143,351
IBM Direct United Kingdom Limited	16,420 10
IBM Direct United Kingdom Limited	15,845,119

Contract	*Monetary value of contract excluding VAT, gross figure (£)*
Oracle Corporation UK Limited	90,000
Specialist Computer Centres PLC	1,409,078
Specialist Computer Centres PLC	58,803
Specialist Computer Centres PLC	2,294,856
Specialist Computer Centres PLC	25,000
Specialist Computer Centres PLC	80,846
Specialist Computer Centres PLC	2,249,500
Total	43,436,924

In addition, a number of contracts have been let in the last 12 months in respect of changes made to the FCO Proviso system as part of the roll out of the Integrity solution. These are as follows:

Item	*Monetary value of contract excluding VAT (£)*
Initial Scoping and Design Work for Early ICW Projects	27,130.01
Early ICW Projects August 2008 to January 2009	165,000.00
First year product support services for ICW Early Deliverables—provided by Software AG	87,879.58
ICW Early Deliverables—FCO Services resources required for the next stage of the project	213,315.00
ICW ED Software AG EICW	237,664.92
EICW related Professional Services (refusal/non-refusal notices	49,094
Total	780,083.51

Courts: ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made with the national deployment of IT-enabled procedures by HM Courts Service to transfer court results automatically to the Police National Computer. [287916]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Deployment of the Bichard 7 solution automating results to the police national computer (PNC) is underway. As at 12 October 83 per cent. of criminal justice areas are automating their magistrates court results to the PNC.

The Crown Court solution automating results to PNC is scheduled to commence deployment in November 2009.

Bichard 7 is scheduled to complete deployment by March 2010.

Crime: Mobile Phones

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has made an assessment of the effects on levels of criminal activity on the availability of unregistered pay-as-you-go mobile telephones. [290454]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has not made an assessment of the effects on levels of criminal activity on the availability of unregistered pay-as-you-go mobile telephones.

The National Mobile Phone Crime Unit, which the Home Office part sponsors, recently did a survey of handsets stolen in the Metropolitan police area and discovered that around 35 per cent. were pre-pay.

Crimes of Violence: Driving Offences

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the percentage of violent crime that involved the use of cars by uninsured drivers and drivers who had previous driving convictions and bans in the latest period for which figures are available. [289962]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the number of cases of violent crime which involved uninsured drivers in the latest period for which figures are available. [289964]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data are available for 2008-09 for offences of 'Causing death by driving: Unlicensed, Disqualified or Uninsured drivers' and there were six offences recorded by the police in England and Wales. However, it is not possible to separately identify which deaths, if any, were caused by uninsured drivers.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of offenders identified by the British Crime survey as perpetrators of *(a)* stranger violence, *(b)* acquaintance violence and *(c)* mugging were female in each year for which figures are available. [291775]

Alan Johnson: The following tables show the percentage of offenders identified by victims of violent incidents as female, male or both (in the case of more than one offender) from the British crime survey between 1995 and 2008-09.

Trends in offender characteristics in violent incidents, BCS typology

Table 1: Sex of offenders in incidents of mugging, 1996 to 2008-09, BCS

Percentage

	Mugging										
Sex of offenders	*1995*	*1997*	*1999*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Male	96	94	92	86	85	89	86	89	82	86	87

Table 1: Sex of offenders in incidents of mugging, 1996 to 2008-09, BCS

Percentage

Mugging

Sex of offenders	*1995*	*1997*	*1999*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Female	2	2	6	7	6	6	7	5	5	9	6
People of both sexes	3	4	2	7	9	5	7	6	13	6	7
Unweighted base	755	147	127	218	243	223	254	267	267	236	259

Table 2: Sex of offenders in incidents of stranger violence, 1996 to 2008-09, BCS

Percentage

Stranger

Sex of offenders	*1995*	*1997*	*1999*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Male	84	90	87	85	88	84	81	89	83	79	85
Female	6	6	7	8	5	6	6	5	7	11	9
People of both sexes	10	4	6	7	7	10	13	6	10	10	6
Unweighted base	288	250	308	450	456	516	534	267	595	515	551

Table 3: Sex of offenders in incidents of acquaintance violence, 1996 to 2008-09, BCS

Percentage

Acquaintance

Sex of offenders	*1995*	*1997*	*1999*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Male	81	72	73	73	75	75	67	72	72	68	76
Female	12	18	20	14	17	11	21	18	13	13	20
People of both sexes	7	9	7	13	8	14	13	10	15	18	4
Unweighted base	421	348	390	426	492	463	482	505	577	508	488

Notes:

1. Detailed questions about offender(s) are only asked of victims who experienced three or less offences in the last year to minimise respondent burden. Figures here are based on incidents in which the victim could say something about the offender(s).
2. Totals do not always sum to 100 as more than one offender could be involved.
3. Unweighted base is the number of victims who were able to say something about offender.

Crimes of Violence: West Midlands

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes of violence against the person and *(b)* crimes were recorded in Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency in the last three years for which figures are available. [291444]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Crime figures are not collected by constituency. The available police recorded crime statistics for the Birmingham crime and disorder reduction partnership are given in the following table.

Offences recorded in the Birmingham crime and disorder reduction partnership, 2006-07 to 2008-09

Offence	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Violence against the person	26,280	23,666	21,767
Overall crime[1]	119,361	103,527	95,889

[1] Includes violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, offences against vehicles, other theft offences, fraud and forgery, criminal damage, drug offences and other offences.

Criminal Investigations: Costs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 926W, on criminal investigation costs, what the *(a)* direct staff costs, *(b)* operational support costs, *(c)* business support costs and *(d)* total costs excluding overheads for (i) violence against the person—S20 and more serious, (ii) violence against the person—S47 and less serious, (iii) sexual offences, (iv) robbery, (v) deception/fraud, (vi) drugs offences, (vii) criminal damage, (viii) crimes other than those specified above and (ix) crimes other than those specified in ABC data collection were in (A) 2004-05, (B) 2005-06 and (C) 2006-07. [290890]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The data requested are given in the tables.

Table 1: Average cost per incident, by incident type, 2004-05: (£)

	Direct staff costs	Operational support costs	Business support costs	(£) Total cost excluding overheads
Violence against the person - S20 and more serious	5,459.07	3,718.40	2,377.83	11,555.30
Violence against the person - S47 and less serious	164.97	119.58	73.26	357.80
Sexual offences	2,085.36	1,395.14	888.31	4,368.81
Robbery	1,029.40	749.67	474.49	2,253.56
Deception/fraud	300.88	193.45	131.75	626.08
Drugs offences	987.28	649.53	404.41	2,041.22
Criminal damage	84.62	64.43	38.16	187.20
All Other Crime	179.33	139.45	80.22	399.00
Crimes other than those specified in ABC data collection[1]	3,665.82	2,836.50	1,713.30	8,215.62
Total crime	300.84	219.30	133.50	653.65

Table 2: Average costs per incident, 2005-06

	Direct staff costs	Operational support costs	Business support costs	(£) Total cost excluding overheads
Violence against the person - S20 and more serious	7,564.11	4,770.75	2,555.36	14,890.22
Violence against the person - S47 and less serious	202.63	140.46	84.44	427.53
Sexual offences	2,373.18	1,539.78	880.05	4,793.00
Robbery	1,198.67	868.14	483.02	2,549.83
Deception/fraud	432.81	256.30	165.28	854.38
Drugs offences	1,054.21	667.25	385.89	2,107.35
Criminal damage	98.33	70.39	40.46	209.19
All Other Crime	198.72	156.23	88.17	443.12
Crimes other than those specified in ABC data collection[1]	3,709.13	2,746.70	1,509.45	7,965.28
Total crime	357.50	251.73	142.81	752.04

Table 3: Average costs per incident, 2006-07

	Direct staff costs	Operational support costs	Business support costs	(£) Total cost excluding overheads
Violence against the person - S20 and more serious	9,155.84	5,131.39	3,103.06	17,390.29
Violence against the person - S47 and less serious	222.76	154.31	90.88	467.94
Sexual offences	3,082.91	2,074.40	1,165.78	6,323.09
Robbery	1,178.17	857.18	430.75	2,466.10
Deception/fraud	452.03	293.64	176.26	921.92
Drugs offences	935.60	573.11	356.30	1,865.01
Criminal damage	103.13	74.23	40.75	218.11
All Other Crime	208.67	162.97	86.73	458.37
Crimes other than those specified in ABC data collection[1]	3,283.92	2,589.36	1,249.30	7,122.59
Total crime	367.82	258.71	142.41	768.93

[1] Crimes specified in ABC data collection are: violence against the person, sexual offences, burglary (dwelling), burglary (commercial and other), robbery, theft of or from a motor vehicle, deception/fraud, theft (other), drugs offences, criminal damage.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289510]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office and its external agencies spent £1,795,842 on newspaper advertising in the 2008-09 financial year to communicate policies on knife crime, community safety, acquisitive crime, alcohol and the point-based system in immigration.

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290572]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows.

(a) Table 1 shows the number of staff who have been dismissed.

Table 1

Financial year	*Dismissals total*
2004-05	142
2005-06	150
2006-07	140
2007-08	149
2008-09	130

(b) We are unable to identify those who have had their contract terminated as this is not a utilised reason for leaving; to identify the reason for each case could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as the data are not held centrally and would require each regional office to provide data.

The severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination for each financial year is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs as it would require each regional office to provide data.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in his Department are provided with a BlackBerry device. [289585]

Alan Johnson: In my Department six Ministers and two special advisers are issued with BlackBerry devices.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in *(a)* the Office for Security and Counter-terrorism, *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service and *(c)* his Department have been issued with a BlackBerry device. [289586]

Alan Johnson: There are currently 457 secure BlackBerry devices issued to civil servants in the Home Office. Of these, 31 secure devices have been issued to staff in the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism. The Identity and Passport Service does not supply BlackBerry devices to its staff.

Departmental Expenditure

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding from each of his Department's projects will be diverted to the Department for Communities and Local Government to implement the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative Programme 2009-10. [289539]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has been able to identify emerging underspends from which to contribute to the housing programme, and as a result it has not been necessary to divert funding from any programmes or projects.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure his Department has incurred on room hire at the City Inn in Westminster in the last 24 months; and on how many occasions such rooms have been hired by his Department in that period. [290807]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Department has made payments totalling £5,651 to City Inn, Westminster, during the last two years. These relate to the hiring of conference facilities by business areas on four occasions.

Of the Department's agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau has not made any payments and Identity and Passport Service cannot provide the information without incurring disproportionate cost.

All Home Office expenditure conforms to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and any other guidance as applicable contained within "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety."

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what flexi-time arrangements have been available to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290574]

Mr. Woolas: Most parts of the Home Office allow staff to participate in flexi-time arrangements where operationally possible. However, there are significant areas of the Home Office, such as the UK Border Agency front-line operations, where business needs preclude the working of flexi-time.

Over a four-week accounting period, staff on flexi-time are required to complete their net conditioned hours of attendance, with a limited credit or deficit being carried over from one period to the next if necessary.

The Home Office flexi-time policy requires staff to be present during an agreed "core time" of 10am to 3.45 pm. Subject to business needs, it allows them to start work any time between 7.30 am and 10am and allows them to leave work any time between 3.45 and 7pm. A lunch break of at least 30 minutes must be taken between 11am and 3pm.

These arrangements may be varied slightly with the agreement of local management. Staff with a part-time attendance pattern must agree individual arrangements with their line managers.

There are more than 250 Home Office locations across the United Kingdom. Flexi-time monitoring is undertaken at a local level and is either electronic or paper-based; records are not maintained centrally and no historic records are available. Therefore, an attempt to obtain the information requested could not be effected without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 14 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2234W, on departmental marketing, how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [290212]

Mr. Woolas: The number of staff responsible for branding and the total cost of employment for the financial year 2008-09 are detailed in the following table:

	Number of staff employed	*Total cost (£)*
Home Office	1	3,998
UK Border Agency (UKBA)	1	4,800
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)	1	7,282

This work equates to:

4 hours per week at SIO grade within the Home Office

one day per week at EO grade for UKBA

one day per week at SEO grade for IPS.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291614]

Mr. Woolas: Information on spend is available from 2005-06 following the introduction of the Department's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. Collation of information prior to this date is available only at disproportionate cost. The Department's (inclusive of its executive agencies) spend on car hire outside the Government Car Service since 2005-06 is as follows:

Car hire expenditure

Financial year	£
2005-06	660,014
2006-07	389,270
2007-08	335,069
2008-09	415,953

Departmental Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many properties owned by the Department were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the liability in respect of each was in each such year. [290575]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows.

(a) In 2004-05 the Department owned five buildings liable for business rates. Since the disposal of a surplus property in 2005-06, this has reduced to four. Details of the costs for each respective year are in the following table:

	Total (£000)
2004-05	963
2005-06	596
2006-07	398
2007-08	409
2008-09	427

(b) The Department has not owned any properties qualifying for empty rates relief in the period covered by this question.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's hospitality and catering budget was in each of the last five years; and what proportion of that budget was spent on entertainment in each such year. [290127]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's budget holders are responsible for translating delegations into sufficiently detailed budgets to enable delivery of objectives. Although the Department's accounting system can report hospitality and catering budget data, budget holders have broken down their resource delegations differently, and not always to this level of detail.

Entertainment is not accounted for separately.

The requested information cannot therefore be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. All Home Office expenditure on entertainment and hospitality conforms to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and any other guidance as applicable contained within "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety."

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the average duration of such leave has been. [290573]

Mr. Woolas: Employees are contractually entitled to 10 days paid paternity or maternity support leave if they have completed one year's qualifying service ending with the 15th week before the baby is due.

The actual number of employees who have taken paternity leave in the Home Office has not been collated centrally and we are therefore unable to provide paternity leave data for each of the last five years without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290576]

Mr. Woolas: In Home Office HQ and the United Kingdom Border Agency there are two reward schemes: a one-off non-consolidated special payment scheme and a "thank you" voucher scheme. The purpose of the one-off non-consolidated special payment scheme is to reward outstanding achievement by staff in particularly demanding tasks or situations. In the financial year 2007-08 3,702 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £2,564,759; in 2008-09 2,863 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £1,161,720.

Accurate data prior to the financial year 2007-08 are unavailable and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

The "thank you" voucher scheme was launched in September 2008. Its purpose is to reward outstanding achievement. Staff can be awarded vouchers to the value of either £25 or £50 to spend in high street stores. Since its launch, 1,635 staff have received vouchers under this scheme at a total cost of £71,728.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) operates three employee reward schemes: the corporate one-off non-consolidated payment scheme; the grade 6/7 one-off non-consolidated payment scheme, and the one-off non-consolidated special payment scheme. In all cases, data are available only for the past two financial years. Data for previous years could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

The IPS corporate one-off non-consolidated payment scheme is available to all staff in grades below the senior civil service. The payment, which is limited to a maximum of £450 per person, is designed to reward successful delivery of key organisational aims. In 2007-08 3,930 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £1,309,828; in 2008-09 4,401 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £1,665,760.

The purpose of the IPS grade 6/7 one-off non-consolidated payment scheme is to reward excellent achievement in management and leadership. In 2007-08 122 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £140, 673; in 2008-09 130 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £328,500.

The IPS one-off non-consolidated special payment scheme is open to all staff in grades below the senior civil service. Its purpose is to reward individuals or teams for exceptional performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. In 2007-08 862 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £94,523; in 2008-09 640 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £65,410.

The Criminal Records Bureau operates a one-off non-consolidated special payment scheme to reward exceptional individual performance. In 2007-08 13 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £21,360; in 2008-09 36 staff received a payment under this scheme at a total cost of £9,275.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's officials received bonuses in each year since 1997; and how much was paid in total in bonuses in each of those years. [291628]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office (including the UK Border Agency), as part of its annual pay arrangements, pays non-consolidated performance-related bonuses up to 35 per cent. of its staff. There are rewards for exceptional contribution throughout the year. There are separate arrangements for the Department's senior staff, which are set by the Prime Minister for the whole senior civil service, following independent advice from the Senior Salaries Review Body.

In the years for which data are available the following bonuses were paid (with the total costs in brackets):

	Number	*Total costs (£ million)*
2005-06	4,785	(4.28)
2006-07	5,097	(4.45)
2007-08	5,647	(4.48)
2008-09	6,164	(4.75)

It is also possible to give one-off special payments to members of staff in year to reward exceptional achievements on a project or programme. 2,863 staff received such a payment in 2008-09 at a cost of £1.16 million; the equivalent figures for 2007-08 were 3,702 (£2.56 million).

We cannot provide information for previous years except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Property

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of *(a)* his Department's property group and *(b)* the probation division of that group is for 2009-10; and how many people are employed in each. [290336]

Mr. Woolas: General property in the Department's shared services directorate has a planned gross pay/non-pay outturn cost for 2009-10 of £6.4 million allowing for vacancies to be filled. It currently comprises 136 staff that are organised as service delivery teams, rather than client-specific teams. The financial contribution to the Home Office pay/non-pay budget by the National Offender Management Service for services provided which includes those to the National Probation Service estate is £1.5 million.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289738]

Mr. Woolas: I am the Minister responsible for value for money in my Department. The Home Office has a strong and ambitious value for money programme that will deliver cashable improvements worth £1,584 million per annum by 2010-11.

Performance against this ambition was reported in the 2008 Home Office Annual Report [Cm 7592]. That included activity to improve public service delivery, for example, Operation Quest in the police service has delivered significant benefits to the public in terms of customer satisfaction and value for money by giving police officers and staff the skills to understand and then implement improved operational processes.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289671]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested for the core Home Office and UK Borders Agency combined is as follows:

	Total waste (tonnes)	*Percentage recycled*
2007-08	2,117	25

The Home Office is working towards meeting the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets on waste generation and recycling.

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department of sickness absences was in each of the last five years. [290569]

Mr. Woolas: Full information is not held centrally and to extract and model the required data for five years would incur disproportionate cost.

The total cost of sickness absence in the Home Office for the financial year 2008-09 was £23.47 million.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on flights for travel by Ministers in each year from 2005 to 2008. [291488]

Mr. Woolas: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Since 2008, this list has included information on all overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. Information for the last financial year was published on 16 July 2009. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Deportation

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department against how many people he and his predecessors have undertaken deportation proceedings on the grounds of national security in each year since 2001; and how many people have been deported on the grounds of national security in each such year. [290717]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: Comprehensive details of the number of cases where a notice of intention to deport on grounds of national security was served are not available for the period 2001-04.

During the period 2005 to end August 2009, the number of cases where a notice of intention to deport on those grounds was served is as follows:

	People (Number)
2005	31
2006	9
2007	0
2008	1
2009	12

Nine people have been deported on grounds of national security since 2005; three in 2006 and six in 2007.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on the grounds of fomenting extremism or demonstrating unacceptable behaviour under the 12-point plan announced by the then Prime Minister in August 2005, in each quarter since August 2005. [291301]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: In each quarter since August 2005, the following number of foreign nationals have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on the grounds of fomenting extremism or demonstrating other aspects of unacceptable behaviour:

		Number
2005	*(a)* Deported	0
	(b) Excluded Q3	[1]3
	(b) Excluded Q4	18
2006	*(a)* Deported Q4	1
	(b) Excluded Q1	8
	(b) Excluded Q2	10
	(b) Excluded Q3	[2]4
	(b) Excluded Q4	11
2007	*(a)* Deported	0
	(b) Excluded Q1	0
	(b) Excluded Q2	7
	(b) Excluded Q3	5
	(b) Excluded Q4	9
2008	*(a)* Deported	0
	(b) Excluded Q1	4
	(b) Excluded Q2	0
	(b) Excluded Q3	0
	(b) Excluded Q4	8
2009	*(a)* Deported	0
	(b) Excluded Q1	14
	(b) Excluded Q2	4
	(b) Excluded Q3	[3]1

[1] This figure is from August 2005 and included within previous PQ answer given on 29 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2359W. The figure given was four. This figure has now been reduced to three due to the re-classification of one exclusion, from unacceptable behaviour to public order.

[2] This figure has been amended to reflect four cases instead of three mentioned in the previous PQ answer given on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2358-59W. The increase in this breakdown reflects an additional unacceptable behaviour exclusion decision that was made in August 2006.

[3] To date.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on national security grounds in each quarter since August 2005. [291304]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: In each quarter since August 2005 the following number of foreign nationals have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on national security grounds:

		Number
2005	*(a)* Deported	0
	(b) Excluded Q3	2
	(b) Excluded Q4	5
2006	*(a)* Deported Q2	2
	(a) Deported Q3	1
	(b) Excluded Q1	4
	(b) Excluded Q2	5
	(b) Excluded Q3	5
	(b) Excluded Q4	26
2007	*(a)* Deported Q1	4
	(a) Deported Q2	1
	(a) Deported Q3	1
	(b) Excluded Q1	1
	(b) Excluded Q2	73
	(b) Excluded Q3	4
	(b) Excluded Q4	2
2008	*(a)* Deported	0
	(b) Excluded Q1	5
	(b) Excluded Q2	6
	(b) Excluded Q3	8
	(b) Excluded Q4	7
2009	*(a)* Deported	0
	(b) Excluded Q1	2
	(b) Excluded Q2	7
	(b) Excluded Q3	[1]6

[1] To date

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* enforced removals and *(b)* voluntary departures there have been in (i) each year since 1997 and (ii) each quarter since the first quarter of 2008; and how many of the enforced removals were not initial refusals at a port of entry in each such year. [291840]

Mr. Woolas: Official statistics on enforced removals are not available separately. The following tables show the number of combined removals and voluntary departures in each year since 1997 and each quarter since Q1 2008.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2] from the United Kingdom, 1997 to Q2 2009

Number of departures

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*[3]
Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[4,5]	20,430	24,065	26,435	32,835	33,680	46,630	35,130	36,165	29,805	31,895	31,145	32,365
Of which:												
Removed from UK ports	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	20,635	19,465
Removed from juxtaposed controls	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	10,510	12,900
Enforced removals and voluntary departures	10,720	10,860	11,345	13,815	16,940	22,000	29,255	24,990	28,410	31,970	32,220	35,615
Of which:												
Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[7,8]	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	22,275	23,950	21,320	21,180	21,305
Assisted Voluntary Returns[9]	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	[6]n/a	2,715	3,655	6,200	4,155	4,295
Other voluntary departures[10]	[11]n/a	[11]n/a	[11]n/a	[11]n/a	[11]n/a	[11]n/a	[11]n/a	[11]n/a	805	4,450	6,885	10,010
Grand total	31,150	34,920	37,780	46,645	50,625	68,630	64,390	61,160	58,215	63,865	63,365	67,980

Number of departures

	2008 Q1	2008 Q2	2008 Q3	2008 Q4	2009 Q1	2009 Q2
Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[5,7]	8,345	7,305	8,235	8,485	7,695	7,445
Of which						
Removed from UK ports	5,105	4,705	4,955	4,700	4,200	4,030
Removed from juxtaposed controls	3,240	2,600	3,280	3,785	3,495	3,415
Enforced removals and voluntary departures	8,810	8,625	9,840	8,335	8,140	8,070
Of which						
Enforced removals and notified voluntary departures[4,8]	5,440	5,500	5,780	4,585	4,575	5,585
Assisted Voluntary Returns[9]	970	1,030	1,195	1,095	1,220	1,240
Other voluntary departures[10]	2,395	2,095	2,865	2,655	2,345	1,245
Grand total	17,150	15,930	18,080	16,820	15,840	15,515

[1] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken. Prior to 2005, data are not directly comparable.
[2] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, (- = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[3] Provisional figures.
[4] Figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, since 2004 removals performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers and since 2005 a small number of cases who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[5] Figures up to March 2001 may include a small number of dependants of principal asylum applicants refused entry at port and subsequently removed.
[6] Not available.
[7] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals performed by Enforcement Officers using port powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.
[8] Since January 2006 figures include persons leaving under Facilitated Return Schemes.
[9] Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. May include some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.
[10] Since January 2005, persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[11] Not applicable.

Deportation: Eritrea

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Eritrean nationals have been forcibly returned from the UK to Eritrea since September 2008; what reports he has received of their treatment by the Eritrean authorities upon their return; and if he will make a statement. [291138]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* UK Border Agency figures show there were three departures, all voluntary, from the UK to Eritrea between September 2008 and June 2009. Published figures on returns can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Information about the treatment of failed asylum seekers returned to Eritrea is contained in the Country of Origin Information Service Report for Eritrea, the latest version of which can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

Deportation: Human Rights

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to issue revised guidance to UK Border Agency caseworkers on the application of Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights in the light of the House of Lords judgment in the case of Huang and Kashmiri (2007) UKHL 11. [291124]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* We are finalising the changes to the guidance to caseworkers on the application of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and expect that it will be issued by the end of September.

Deportation: Offenders

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 4,096 offenders who had their licence recalled in 2008-09 and were classified as returned to custody have been deported. [291202]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* In the written ministerial statement of 6 July 2009, Audit of Licence Revocation, the Secretary of State for Justice announced that as at 26 June 2009, 954 offenders who had their licences revoked between 1984 and 31 March 2009 were not recorded as having been returned to custody. Of these, the chief executive of the UK Border Agency reported to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 8 July 2009 that 192 were foreign nationals, of which 64 were being pursued as meeting the criteria for deportation.

Detainees: Children

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have signed authorisations for the continued detention of children at immigration removal centres beyond 28 days in each of the last five years. [290780]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Local management information indicates that the following referrals for ministerial authorisation of the continued detention of a child under Immigration Act powers have been made in each of the last five statistical years. Figures for the current statistical year up to and including 4 September 2009 are also included. The information is shown in the following table.

Statistical year (year begins on the first of April)	*Number of families referred to the Minister for authorisation of detention of children beyond 28 days*	*Number of children referred to the Minister for authorisation of detention beyond 28 days*
2004-05	53	93
2005-06	71	139
2006-07	70	164
2007-08	129	201
2008-09	122	212
1 April to 4 September 2009	44	91
Total	488	899

Notes
1. The figures provided do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on local management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.
2. Local management information does not identify the detention location of the child which may include immigration detention in a facility other than an immigration removal centre.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in Tables 9-11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which immigration removal centres operated by the UK Border Agency are equipped to accommodate children. [290[illegible]]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* There are three immigration removal centres in the UK that can accommodate families with children: Dungavel House, Tinsley House and Yarl's Wood. The first two centres routinely accommodate family groups for approximately 72 hours. Where detention is likely to extend beyond this timeframe, families are transferred to Yarl's Wood, which has the facilities to support longer periods of detention.

Full details about each centre and the facilities they provide are available on the UK Border Agency website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/immigrationremovalcentres

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* educational and *(b)* medical provision is made for children detained at immigration removal centres operated by the UK Border Agency. [290790]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Provision of education and crèche facilities for children is focused at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre. The centre provides an Ofsted inspected crèche and school classrooms delivering 30 hours per week of tuition by qualified teachers for children aged five to 16 years. The teachers follow schemes of work that reflect the national curriculum key learning stages and include five hours of physical education. Children under school age have access to the crèche which is staffed seven days a week from 9 am to 5 pm by appropriately qualified child care professionals.

All immigration removal centres provide free onsite primary health care to the same level of care as NHS general practices in the community. The health care centre at Yarl's Wood is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by qualified medical staff who provide holistic care to meet the needs of individuals in accordance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines. Referrals to the local hospital for secondary care are made as medically required. In addition to this, the centre has dedicated services that are provided to specifically meet the needs of families and children. These include a paediatric nurse, health and midwife visitors, weight and immunisation clinics which are able to prescribe malarial prophylaxis for identified risk groups, access to children's acute mental health services (CAMH) and counselling services.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to provide alternative accommodation for children detained at immigration removal centres operated by the UK Border Agency. [290791]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Families with children are detained to effect their departure from this country when they have no legal right to remain here and refuse to leave voluntarily, even when offered assistance to do so. They are detained only as a last resort and for as short a time as possible.

We are committed to exploring alternative ways of ensuring that such families leave the country so as to reduce the number of children who need to be detained. Building on the experience of a project in Ashford, Kent in 2007, a new pilot is currently running in Glasgow which is a partnership between the UK Border Agency, Glasgow city council and the Scottish Government. The pilot can accommodate up to five families in designated flats, where they receive targeted help from social workers to prepare positive plans for a voluntary return to their home country.

The pilot is scheduled to run for three years and will be subject to independent evaluation.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children detained at immigration removal centres operated by the UK Border Agency have required medical attention *(a)* during and *(b)* after their period of detention in the last five years. [290792]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information requested is not yet collated centrally and could be provided only by checking each individual's medical file. Not only would this incur disproportionate cost, but the information would not be readily provided to the UK Border Agency as it is medically in confidence.

However, all detainees, including children, are seen within two hours of arrival in the centre by a nurse and an appointment made for them to see the GP within 24 hours unless a health-led assessment requires earlier attention. These and any subsequent consultations are recorded on the child's individual medical record.

Detention Centres: Religion

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded cases there have been of verbal or physical abuse of converts from *(a)* Hinduism, *(b)* Christianity, *(c)* Judaism, *(d)* Islam, *(e)* Sikhism, *(f)* Buddhism and *(g)* other religions detained in (i) immigration removal centres and (ii) short-term holding centres since 2000. [290295]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not collate the information requested and could provide it by checking each individual detainee record only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms he has to record the frequency with which detainees at the immigration removal centres at *(a)* Brook House, *(b)* Campsfield House, *(c)* Colnbrook IRC, *(d)* Dover, *(e)* Dungavel House, *(f)* Haslar, *(g)* Kalyx, *(h)* Lindholme, *(i)* Oakington, *(j)* Tinsley House and *(k)* Yarl's Wood have requested visits by a religious representative of their choice; how often such requests have been fulfilled in each of the last three years; and how long on average it took to fulfil such a request in each such year. [290312]

Mr. Woolas: Each Immigration Removal Centre has a Manager for Religious Affairs, who takes responsibility for facilitating detainee requests to see a religious representative of his or her choice. In addition, most centres have an on-site Chaplain who, alongside a diverse group of regular visiting ministers, delivers a wide-ranging religious affairs programme. As such, requests to see other specific religious representatives do not arise often. There have been 34 recorded requests in the last three years. The data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications.

Detention Centres: Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 18 years and (ii) 18 years old or over were returned after absconding from each immigration detention centre in each year since 1997. [291596]

Alan Johnson: Information on the number of detainees who have escaped from each immigration removal centre and have been re-captured is taken from local management information. These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. Data on the number of individuals re-captured are available from 2006. The information is provisional and subject to change.

There have been no escapes by females or by detained individuals under the age of 18 years.

In 2006 there were 20 escapes, 19 from Oakington and one from Dungavel. Four individuals have been re-captured.

In 2007 there were 90 escapes, 63 from Oakington, 26 from Campsfield and one from Yarl's Wood. 19 have been re-captured.

In 2008 there were 35 escapes, 25 from Oakington, seven from Campsfield, two from Haslar and one from Lindholme. Nine have been re-captured.

The UK Border Agency takes all escapes very seriously. Procedures are in place to seek to recover individuals who escape from detention. The police are informed immediately and the individuals' details are recorded on the police national computer (PNC) as an absconder should the individual be apprehended at a later date.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 18 years and (ii) 18 years old or over absconded from immigration detention centres in each year since 1997. [291597]

Alan Johnson: Information on the number of detainees who have escaped from each immigration removal centre is taken from local management information. These data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. Data are available from 2004.

There have been no escapes by females or by detained individuals under the age of 18 years.

In 2004, there were 12 escapes;

In 2005, there were five escapes;

In 2006, there were 20 escapes;

In 2007, there were 90 escapes;

In 2008, there were 35 escapes.

DNA: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to provide information on the exceptional case removal procedure for the National DNA Database in each year since the procedure became operational; how much he has spent on such steps; and if he will make a statement. [290828]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: In January 2006, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) issued guidelines for Chief Officers on the retention of police national computer, DNA and fingerprint records in England and Wales. The guidelines included an "Exceptional Case Procedure" covering consideration of requests for the removal of DNA profiles from the National DNA Database (NDNAD). The guidelines were published on the Home Office and ACPO websites in 2006, where they remain.

Information on the Exceptional Case Procedure was also published in the NDNAD annual report 2006-07 on pages 23-24. This report was published on the website of the National Policing Improvement Agency in 2008 and remains there.

Information will also be included in the NDNAD annual report for 2007-09, which will be published shortly.

In addition, information on the Exceptional Case Procedure was published in the *Official Report* in answer to parliamentary questions on three occasions in 2006, three in 2008 and three in 2009:

2006

9 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 494W
11 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 788W
12 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 866W

2008

4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 805W
2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 908-09W
6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 637W

2009

13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 709W
3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1048W
6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 278W

In addition, information was published on three occasions in another place in the period January-February 2008.

It is not possible to disaggregate the cost of publishing this information from other costs incurred in running the NDNAD and publishing the NDNAD annual reports.

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in the number of domestic violence incidents in each police force area in each of the last five years was. [291747]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available data are given in the following table.

Number of domestic violence incidents by police force area and annual percentage changes

	Incidents					
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	11,215	14,364	14,714	15,532	[illegible]0,719	12,513
Bedfordshire	7,749	3,984	7,800	7,341	7,289	8,095
Cambridgeshire	5,959	4,833	7,081	6,874	8,908	11,353
Cheshire	7,685	4,793	10,038	6,544	4,865	5,491
Cleveland	9,892	11,429	12,493	10,845	10,879	12,205
Cumbria	4,343	4,937	3,809	4,372	4,515	4,700
Derbyshire	13,668	14,761	12,159	11,818	16,425	17,145
Devon and Cornwall	19,331	20,123	21,417	13,973	23,789	25,872
Dorset	3,644	4,016	4,962	5,458	5,867	6,517
Durham	8,262	8,904	8,218	8,163	8,615	8,219
Dyfed-Powys	3,775	3,960	15,877	9,758	2,836	2,201
Essex	14,321	15,189	15,082	15,225	17,826	24,668
Gloucestershire	2,556	6,187	6,407	8,237	8,921	8,697
Greater Manchester	58,500	56,778	60,977	64,727	35,971	54,055
Gwent	2,196	2,192	2,240	2,229	7,399	9,605
Hampshire	19,281	18,787	25,733	23,447	22,912	21,234
Hertfordshire	6,731	6,068	10,755	10,926	11,280	11,780
Humberside	6,069	7,711	12,500	12,752	13,444	12,536
Kent	16,372	18,321	19,355	18,495	20,141	20,710
Lancashire	23,089	24,813	22,020	22,360	23,030	25,518
Leicestershire	13,160	12,918	73,393	24,439	9,033	10,651
Lincolnshire	2,130	1,471	2,515	6,110	5,712	7,125
London, City of	93	102	83	97	116	243
Merseyside	32,052	23,857	23,565	25,568	29,013	30,169
Metropolitan Police	106,879	91,619	96,903	67,201	84,026	120,720
Norfolk	8,151	7,937	8,632	7,893	6,241	7,097
Northamptonshire	6,435	7,012	2,818	6,780	9,586	10,479
Northumbria	22,325	22,879	22,867	23,262	25,803	26,809
North Wales	4,930	7,203	7,807	9,682	9,860	9,434
North Yorkshire	4,367	4,926	4,870	5,759	5,466	5,891
Nottinghamshire	12,032	12,026	13,738	17,534	19,166	19,657
South Wales	14,986	14,402	16,791	15,421	16,196	18,423
South Yorkshire	5,685	13,031	16,582	17,819	16,027	15,829
Staffordshire	6,354	8,139	16,234	17,672	18,584	19,333
Suffolk	4,800	5,515	5,515	5,339	6,061	6,021
Surrey	7,811	11,563	12,498	11,528	10,803	10,779
Sussex	14,096	15,631	8,336	14,430	15,877	18,872
Thames Valley	12,693	14,793	17,759	16,744	26,383	26,759
Warwickshire	4,434	3,455	4,168	6,014	7,305	7,908
West Mercia	8,897	10,007	10,642	11,775	13,241	15,100
West Midlands	39,835	38,355	39,729	40,233	37,897	40,980
West Yorkshire	34,505	34,914	34,857	34,400	30,276	28,412
Wiltshire	5,930	5,990	6,710	6,600	6,433	6,242

	Percentage changes				
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Avon and Somerset	28	2	6	-31	17
Bedfordshire	-49	96	-6	-1	11
Cambridgeshire	-19	47	-3	30	27
Cheshire	-38	109	-35	-26	13
Cleveland	16	9	-13	0	12
Cumbria	14	-23	15	3	4
Derbyshire	8	-18	-3	39	4
Devon and Cornwall	4	6	-35	70	9
Dorset	10	24	10	7	11
Durham	8	-8	-1	6	-5
Dyfed-Powys	5	301	-39	-71	-22
Essex	6	-1	1	17	38
Gloucestershire	142	4	29	8	-3
Greater Manchester	-3	7	6	-44	50
Gwent	0	3	-1	232	30
Hampshire	-3	37	-9	-2	-7
Hertfordshire	-10	77	2	3	4
Humberside	27	62	2	5	-7
Kent	12	6	-4	9	3
Lancashire	7	-11	2	3	11
Leicestershire	-2	468	-67	-63	18
Lincolnshire	-31	71	143	-7	25
London, City of	10	-19	17	20	110
Merseyside	-26	-1	9	14	4
Metropolitan Police	-14	6	-31	25	44
Norfolk	-3	9	-9	-21	14
Northamptonshire	9	-40	141	41	9
Northumbria	2	0	2	11	4
North Wales	46	8	24	2	-4
North Yorkshire	13	-1	18	-5	8
Nottinghamshire	0	14	28	9	3
South Wales	-4	17	-8	5	14
South Yorkshire	129	27	7	-10	-1
Staffordshire	28	99	9	5	4
Suffolk	15	0	-3	14	-1
Surrey	48	8	-8	-6	0
Sussex	11	-47	73	10	19
Thames Valley	17	20	-6	58	1
Warwickshire	-22	21	44	21	8
West Mercia	12	6	11	12	14
West Midlands	-4	4	1	-6	8
West Yorkshire	1	0	-1	-12	-6
Wiltshire	1	12	-2	-3	-3

Notes:
1. All data are provisional and unverified
2. Data are estimated. Where data are estimated, corresponding percentage changes are based on those estimates

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those brought into a police station tested positively for class A drugs in 2008-09; and how many offenders entered treatment voluntarily through the Drug Intervention Programme in that year. [290975]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Under the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), drug-testing of offenders for specified class A drugs (heroin and cocaine/crack) in police custody takes place in 107 BCUs. Offenders arrested or charged with a "trigger offence"—largely acquisitive crime related offences—are required to provide a sample to be tested. In 2008-09, 34 per cent. of those drug-tested while in police custody tested positively for class A drugs.

All treatment takes place with consent and therefore is entered voluntarily.

DIP identifies drug misusers through a positive drug test, as well as through referral in the community and prison. The number of adults commencing treatment through DIP in 2008-09 was 57,951.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make an estimate of the number of people who have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* charged in respect of offences committed while they were taking selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors in each of the last five years. [291487]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available as it is not possible to separately identify people who have been arrested and charged in respect of offences committed while they were taking selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors.

Employment Tribunals Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times his Department has been taken to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; what the reason cited in each case was; and in how many cases the tribunal found in favour of the *(a)* employee and *(b)* Department. [290571]

Mr. Woolas: The number of times the Home Office, including the UK Border Agency (UKBA), Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), have been taken to a full employment tribunal hearing in each of the last five years is as follows:

2004-05

Neither Home Office HQ nor UKBA hold this information centrally, which could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. Neither IPS nor CRB were taken to a full employment tribunal.

2005-06

Fewer than five claims went to a full hearing. Further information is therefore withheld on confidentiality grounds.

2006-07

There were 10 full employment tribunal hearings; the tribunal found in favour of the employee on two occasions and in favour of the Department on 8 occasions. The reasons given for the claims included disability discrimination, race discrimination, unfair dismissal, and equal pay.

2007-08

There were seven full employment tribunal hearings; the tribunal found in favour of the employee on one occasion and in favour of the Department on six occasions. The reasons given for the claims included race discrimination, unfair dismissal, and unlawful deduction of wages.

2008-09

There were 11 full employment tribunals; the tribunal found in favour of the employee on four occasions and in favour of the Department on seven occasions. The reasons given for the claims included disability discrimination, race discrimination, sex discrimination, unfair dismissal, unlawful deduction of wages and victimisation.

Entry Clearances

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to publish the research commissioned by his Department on the likely effects of raising the minimum age for *(a)* a sponsor and *(b)* leave to enter the UK as a spouse or fiancé. [290402]

Mr. Woolas: There is no current intention to formally publish the research commissioned by the Department on the likely effects of raising the minimum age for *(a)* a sponsor and *(b)* leave to enter the UK as a spouse or fiancé.

The view of the UK Border Agency researchers and two external peer-reviewers was that the research report was not of sufficient quality to be published in the Home Office Research Series. The methodology used for the research was sound, but the subsequent report contained unsubstantiated conclusions and misleading statements.

The contractor was informed that the full research report was not of suitable quality for publication in the Home Office Research Series but that the Home Office would be content for them to seek publication elsewhere. Research findings have since been published by the contractor on the University of Bristol website and by the Runnymede Trust.

A summary of the research, subsequently produced by the UK Border Agency researchers in conjunction with the contractors drew out the key findings. This was provided to the Home Affairs Select Committee to inform the consultation on domestic violence, forced marriage and 'honour' based violence. The Department will also be releasing this report under a Freedom of Information Act request. However, it will not be formally publishing in the Home Office Research Series due to the concerns outlined above.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce the waiting time for the consideration of EEA2 applications. [290690]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* UKBA has put in place a clear, focused recovery plan which will enable the agency to return to operating with service standards by December 2009.The plan is monitored on a daily basis by senior operational managers.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visa applications were submitted in the first six months of 2009. [291201]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the Entry Clearance Statistics for FY 2008-09, published in August on the UK Border Agency's Visa Service's website, for details of student visa applications submitted in the first quarter of 2009. Entry clearance statistics for the second quarter of 2009 are due to be published in November.

Essex Police: Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who in his Department was *(a)* consulted about and *(b)* informed of the appointment of the chief constable of Essex police; and if he will make a statement. [291043]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Under Section 11 of the Police Act 1996 Ministers approve candidates for chief constable posts. This takes place before short-listing by the police authority and on the advice of the Police Senior Appointments Panel.

Sir Ronnie Flanagan is interim independent chair of the panel and it includes a representative from the Home Office, as well as representation from the Association of Police Authorities, the Association of Chief Police Officers, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and an independent member.

Following ministerial approval, it is the responsibility of the police authority to interview candidates and make the final appointment. The police authority will then notify the Senior Appointments Panel's secretariat of its decision. The secretariat will then inform members of the panel, including the Home Office representative.

Fingerprints: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records were held on National Fingerprint Database on 1 August 2009. [291200]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* As at 1 August 2009 there were 8,045,329 subjects held on the National Fingerprint Database.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were issued in each of the last 24 months by each police force in England and Wales. [290978]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Information on the number of fixed penalty notices for motoring offences is provided in table A.

Additionally, data provided by the Ministry of Justice on Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 and over in England and Wales, by police force area and month, for 2006 and 2007 (latest available) are given in tables B and C.

Information on fixed penalty notices for motoring offences held by the Home Office is not broken down by months and therefore we are unable to provide you with data in this way.

Table A: Fixed penalty notices issued for all offences by offence group and police force area for England and Wales, 2006 and 2007

Police force area	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	88,251	95,346
Bedfordshire	60,858	39,813
Cambridgeshire	39,021	43,084
Cheshire	60,133	60,568
Cleveland	27,465	21,559
Cumbria	40,257	35,732
Derbyshire	47,670	36,226
Devon and Cornwall	108,040	119,436
Dorset	59,562	45,895
Durham	12,464	13,058
Essex	96,807	81,172
Gloucestershire	32,624	25,094
Greater Manchester	126,293	100,607
Hampshire	84,041	77,547
Hertfordshire	102,957	63,038
Humberside	62,598	57,381
Kent	63,378	64,231
Lancashire	73,024	70,076
Leicestershire	59,274	38,089
Lincolnshire	52,675	46,779
London, City of	14,978	8,493
Merseyside	77,366	78,720
Metropolitan	208,815	167,960
Norfolk	37,532	36,818
North Yorkshire	21,359	28,409
Northamptonshire	52,447	60,135
Northumbria	95,988	70,254
Nottinghamshire	70,080	63,176
South Yorkshire	74,168	62,827
Staffordshire	70,679	52,687
Suffolk	49,021	49,108
Surrey	59,111	43,291
Sussex	102,528	98,339
Thames Valley	158,197	99,299
Warwickshire	45,748	40,865
West Mercia	73,053	75,372
West Midlands	93,391	88,059
West Yorkshire	102,114	88,020
Wiltshire	63,374	46,018
Total England	2,767,341	2,392,581
Dyfed - Powys	15,262	16,145
Gwent	25,782	23,628
North Wales	79,354	62,635
South Wales	130,542	131,664
Total Wales	250,940	234,072
England and Wales	3,018,281	2,626,653

Table B: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over, by police force area and month, England and Wales 2006[1]

Police force area	*Total*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Avon and Somerset	3,951	269	283	283	315	318	304	331	339	340	436	346	387
Bedfordshire	1,645	129	110	150	145	155	125	160	155	133	124	133	126
British Transport police	3,058	[2]—	[2]—	121	268	314	279	358	337	262	341	390	388
Cambridgeshire	1,518	89	89	65	83	95	156	122	133	119	164	185	218
Cheshire	2,283	190	170	144	178	194	201	183	184	198	193	174	274
Cleveland	3,570	289	260	233	300	280	267	275	302	347	319	290	408
Cumbria	1,693	119	99	91	124	114	173	147	155	139	176	146	210
Derbyshire	2,583	157	155	163	184	174	204	239	225	247	276	279	280
Devon and Cornwall	7,022	535	466	498	543	592	574	622	627	587	628	632	718
Dorset	2,309	171	160	196	183	181	169	211	230	198	210	180	220
Durham	1,591	74	91	143	171	129	133	152	130	156	134	115	163

Table B: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over, by police force area and month, England and Wales 2006[1]

Police force area	*Total*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Essex	4,461	382	350	346	351	377	392	414	335	316	417	312	469
Gloucestershire	3,164	287	259	315	294	323	272	277	250	252	208	189	238
Greater Manchester	10,881	830	835	719	878	876	897	888	881	908	1,049	941	1,185
Hampshire	4,909	307	330	320	358	365	432	439	432	491	463	459	513
Hertfordshire	5,615	302	478	422	442	424	465	577	499	549	537	429	491
Humberside	5,490	259	290	325	338	347	417	449	452	513	692	741	667
Kent	7,080	630	561	575	568	588	573	590	602	573	608	561	651
Lancashire	12,479	883	935	944	1,098	1,067	1,079	1,175	1,064	1,091	1,082	993	1,068
Leicestershire	2,426	193	162	157	163	195	203	215	175	203	238	222	300
Lincolnshire	2,049	237	163	143	207	192	149	149	169	175	161	122	182
London, City of	316	14	20	28	13	30	23	19	26	27	32	34	50
Merseyside	11,709	1,103	1,106	1,235	1,211	1,204	1,059	945	837	676	736	704	893
Metropolitan	20,856	1,473	1,564	1,599	1,594	1,811	1,818	1,667	1,701	1,708	1,956	1,902	2,063
Norfolk	1,332	52	53	76	94	67	129	136	163	134	144	123	161
North Yorkshire	2,395	150	145	150	153	197	180	192	230	225	230	231	312
Northamptonshire	2,541	173	189	164	167	227	240	249	185	211	222	217	297
Northumbria	6,418	319	280	274	580	612	551	663	576	572	642	577	772
Nottinghamshire	2,304	186	174	213	176	202	171	203	164	178	185	195	257
South Yorkshire	6,185	399	333	386	404	511	466	498	518	539	637	612	882
Staffordshire	3,261	247	263	267	306	291	272	270	214	247	261	251	372
Suffolk	1,472	76	94	95	92	118	128	156	127	155	137	123	171
Surrey	2,844	77	74	66	113	147	216	291	354	360	381	329	436
Sussex	5,268	400	408	425	494	384	482	490	473	409	488	373	442
Thames Valley	6,789	388	439	405	569	482	548	581	644	654	732	582	765
Warwickshire	1,049	76	87	77	71	74	117	93	60	85	113	84	112
West Mercia	3,533	256	226	283	315	268	333	322	309	315	294	263	349
West Midlands	8,015	693	619	587	601	629	578	611	641	720	767	729	840
West Yorkshire	8,930	698	811	774	786	818	771	752	676	676	688	703	777
Wiltshire	1,246	92	75	111	127	123	120	101	70	110	113	91	113
England	186,240	13,204	13,206	13,568	15,057	15,489	15,666	16,212	15,644	15,798	17,214	15,962	19,220
Dyfed Powys	1,393	92	107	90	160	130	120	160	109	115	114	94	102
Gwent	2,050	175	122	169	159	148	155	144	144	184	242	183	225
North Wales	6,167	363	385	410	476	526	485	498	583	632	566	519	724
South Wales	5,347	288	304	327	330	400	551	533	499	496	555	488	576
Wales	14,957	918	918	996	1,125	1,204	1,311	1,335	1,335	1,427	1,477	1,284	1,627
England and Wales	201,197	14,122	14,124	14,564	16,182	16,693	16,977	17,547	16,979	17,225	18,691	17,246	20,847

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Not applicable. The British Transport Police started issuing PNDs on 1 March 2006.

Table C: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over, by police force area and month, England and Wales 2007[1]

Police force area	*Total*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Avon and Somerset	2,950	278	270	294	272	245	250	246	237	213	220	223	202
Bedfordshire	1,336	103	107	132	111	107	116	96	102	129	112	114	107
British Transport police	4,867	362	400	426	432	426	431	458	453	406	368	361	344
Cambridgeshire	2,249	179	168	163	192	171	205	193	213	185	178	197	205
Cheshire	2,206	184	194	210	191	204	175	186	169	158	188	150	197
Cleveland	3,803	334	356	356	372	312	279	294	295	265	303	294	343
Cumbria	1,650	130	115	116	106	127	163	167	164	125	141	125	171
Derbyshire	2,730	240	203	261	262	303	255	188	191	204	229	191	203

Table C: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over, by police force area and month, England and Wales 2007[1]

Police force area	*Total*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Devon and Cornwall	5,703	604	427	453	505	519	501	~~555~~	558	480	364	344	393
Dorset	1,798	154	120	158	142	169	178	160	170	138	157	127	125
Durham	1,839	144	155	182	167	190	168	133	108	162	152	126	152
Essex	4,402	332	365	413	408	437	396	383	360	290	351	302	365
Gloucestershire	2,330	219	165	243	202	200	223	176	227	190	186	179	120
Greater Manchester	9,896	826	816	862	865	810	891	760	775	848	821	785	837
Hampshire	6,005	498	470	498	482	497	560	566	569	477	456	476	456
Hertfordshire	4,428	456	427	402	357	380	413	366	287	316	343	364	317
Humberside	8,339	681	548	745	707	721	708	768	710	718	672	676	685
Kent	7,960	622	644	702	693	737	681	601	686	643	611	685	655
Lancashire	12,856	971	1,060	1,110	1,092	1,109	1,140	1,128	1,173	1,024	961	994	1,094
Leicestershire	2,519	195	183	202	209	223	229	237	204	185	205	208	239
Lincolnshire	1,758	120	129	162	150	131	156	185	165	152	131	107	170
London, City of	415	31	38	28	43	32	15	41	20	35	47	30	55
Merseyside	9,270	729	651	798	811	890	748	847	787	712	694	739	864
Metropolitan	24,655	1,818	1,764	2,022	1,916	2,159	2,207	2,297	2,277	1,968	2,119	2,130	1,978
Norfolk	1,560	116	127	134	121	174	99	146	142	126	119	113	143
North Yorkshire	3,715	322	266	333	365	~~378~~	332	305	341	313	271	213	276
Northamptonshire	2,377	239	150	192	259	222	190	185	169	175	196	186	214
Northumbria	7,542	578	629	662	661	652	581	674	528	634	594	605	744
Nottinghamshire	2,551	183	205	243	200	206	210	196	239	210	223	215	221
South Yorkshire	7,983	564	635	677	693	650	552	665	666	706	718	712	745
Staffordshire	2,967	253	199	269	257	273	260	258	236	255	189	228	290
Suffolk	1,879	123	92	161	143	176	200	186	180	162	155	131	170
Surrey	3,786	336	272	363	345	370	376	354	280	321	263	251	255
Sussex	5,091	412	387	401	401	435	447	468	417	416	441	417	449
Thames Valley	8,538	619	660	720	709	662	749	764	714	708	738	653	842
Warwickshire	897	74	84	84	83	85	75	54	63	56	72	76	91
West Mercia	2,914	234	190	224	259	217	254	243	249	262	250	233	299
West Midlands	7,860	657	631	698	708	720	644	731	611	578	570	620	692
West Yorkshire	6,002	625	518	600	558	522	555	568	474	429	362	381	410
Wiltshire	1,203	83	73	78	79	83	100	113	92	124	97	111	170
England	192,829	15,628	14,893	16,777	16,528	16,924	16,712	16,941	16,301	15,498	15,267	15,072	16,288
Dyfed Powys	995	117	80	81	111	90	76	74	74	82	60	70	80
Gwent	1,861	142	142	152	158	145	149	169	177	151	157	155	164
North Wales	5,907	536	487	579	609	569	529	571	430	381	378	405	433
South Wales	5,952	398	450	524	491	481	582	581	514	535	485	472	439
Wales	14,715	1,193	1,159	1,336	1,369	1,285	1,336	1,395	1,195	1,149	1,080	1,102	1,116
England and Wales	207,544	16,821	16,052	18,113	17,897	18,209	18,048	18,336	17,496	16,647	16,347	16,174	17,404

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Fly Tipping: Prosecutions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions have been made and *(b)* fixed penalty notices have been issued by (i) police and (ii) local authorities for (A) fly tipping, (B) graffiti, (C) dog fouling, (D) the dropping of litter and (E) parking offences in (1) 2007-08 and (2) 2008-09. [290714]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* Information provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for fly tipping, other criminal damage, dog fouling, the dropping of litter and parking offences in England and Wales in 2007 are given in the table. Please note that data reported to the Ministry of Justice do not separately identify graffiti offences from other criminal damage offences. Court proceedings data are published by calendar year; 2007 is the latest available, data for 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Offences of fly tipping, dog fouling, the dropping of litter and parking offences are summary offences and do not feature in the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. The Home Office does collect penalty notice for disorder (PND) data on recorded offences of criminal damage, which includes graffiti-related offences, although these are part of an aggregate count and therefore cannot be separately identified.

Information on fixed penalties for motoring offences (FPNs) reported to the Home Office shows that there were 446,816 FPNs issued for 'obstruction, waiting and parking offences' in 2007. Data for 2008 are scheduled to be published in March 2010.

Additionally, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) publishes data on fixed penalty notices for environmental offences. The most recent published information can be found on the DEFRA website which can be viewed via the following web link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/fpn/index.htm

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected offences, England and Wales, 2007[1, 2]

Offence	*2007*
Fly tipping[3]	1,842
Other criminal damage[4]	13,379
Dog fouling[5]	376
Littering[6]	3,066
Parking offences[7]	6,370

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Covers offences under sections 33(6),33(8),33(9),34 and 59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

[4] Offences of graffiti cannot be separately identified within the "other criminal damage" category.

[5] Covers offences under section 3 of the 1996 Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act.

[6] Covers offences under sections 87 and 94 of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act, section 1 of the 1989 Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act and section 2 of the Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978.

[7] Covers offences under sections 19,21, 22 and 160 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act, sections 173,174,175 and 190 of the 2000 Transport Act, ss 78,79 and 82 of 2004 Traffic Management Act, ss 72 and 78 of the 1835 Highway Act, s54 of the 1839 Metropolitan Police Act, ss5(1),8,32-36 and 45-53 of the 1984 Road Traffic Regulation Act, and RR101 and 103 of the 1986 Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Foreign Workers: Immigration Controls

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* migrants and *(b)* dependants of migrants of each nationality have been given leave to enter the UK under the (i) skilled worker route, (ii) highly skilled migrants programme, (iii) tier 2 of the points-based system and (iv) tier 1 of the points-based system in each quarter since 1 January 2007. [290713]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information requested about migrants and their dependents who have been given leave to enter in each quarter since January 2007 under (1) tiers 1 and 2 of the points based system and (2) the entry routes which Tiers 1 and 2 replaced will be placed in the House Library.

Foreign Workers: Lloyds Banking Group

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications by Lloyds Banking Group for permits for skilled workers from each country of origin under the intra-company transfer category were *(a)* made to and *(b)* generated by the UK Border Agency in each month since April 2009. [291345]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The information requested is commercially sensitive and, as such, will not be released.

Foreigners: Prisoners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were held under immigration detention powers were held *(a)* in prison and *(b)* on the immigration removal estate on 1 August 2009. [290907]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* As at 1 August 2009 there were approximately 1,800 foreign national offenders detained under immigration powers who had completed their sentence and were awaiting deportation. Around 500 of those were detained under immigration powers in Her Majesty's prisons.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding he has allocated for training of social workers and police in matters related to human trafficking for each of the next three years. [289350]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There have been no funding decisions taken in respect of training on issues of human trafficking for the next three years. Training modules on human trafficking are being rolled out to become part of mainstream mandatory training for police officers. This work is on course to be completed by the end of 2009.

Training of social workers falls appropriately to local authorities, which shape the services provided to meet the needs of the local population including keeping children safe from harm.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number of women and children trafficked into the UK for *(a)* sexual exploitation, *(b)* labour exploitation, *(c)* domestic servitude and *(d)* other purposes in each of the last five years. [291030]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Our latest estimate of the scale of human trafficking is that at any one time in 2003, there were up to 4,000 women in the UK who were potentially victims of human trafficking. In April 2009 the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre estimated that there are approximately 325 children trafficked into the UK each year.

We are currently undertaking work to produce a new estimate of trafficking for sexual exploitation. We aim to publish this by the end of the year.

There are currently no estimates on the numbers of labour trafficking victims (including victims of domestic servitude).

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* evaluate the (i) work and (ii) performance of the competent authority under the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking. [291031]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* All efforts to tackle trafficking are monitored and scrutinised by the quarterly Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Trafficking chaired by myself.

Further scrutiny of trafficking issues is provided by a non-governmental organisation stakeholder group, which I chair alongside the Solicitor-General. The UK action plan on trafficking also provides specific commitments to review particular aspects of the Convention implementation, for example the 45-day recovery/reflection period.

A UK Border Force-led task force was set up to monitor the implementation of the national referral mechanism (NRM) and to ensure that all parts of it, including the competent authorities, are working effectively. The task force contains representatives from Government Departments, local authorities, the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the non-governmental organisation victim support providers Eaves Housing, TARA (Scotland), and Migrant Helpline (Northern Ireland). It is currently meeting on a monthly basis and will host a number of expert workshops on 2 October to review NRM performance over its first six months.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people trafficked into the UK have been flown back to their country of origin *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the EU in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of such journeys. [291080]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Between 1 April 2009 and 31 August 2009 a total of 275 referrals into the National Referral Mechanism were recorded by the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). These referrals were made by the UK Border Agency, police services, local authorities and non-governmental agencies. This includes foreign nationals from both within and outside the European Economic Area and British citizens.

Many of these cases are still under consideration, but UK Border Agency records show that none of those subject to immigration control have been removed or departed voluntarily from the UK. There has therefore been no cost for such journeys to date.

Information on historic cases considered before the new National Referral Mechanism could not be obtained without the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Statistical information on the National Referral Mechanism is published quarterly on the UKHTC website:

http://www.ukhtc.org/#statistical

Statistical information for the period 1 July—30 September will be published on the UKHTC website at the end of September 2009.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what proportion of cases referred to the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking were individuals found to have had *(a)* reasonable and *(b)* conclusive grounds for having been trafficked. [291328]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Between 1 April 2009 and 31 August 2009 a total of 275 referrals into the National Referral Mechanism were recorded by the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). A total of 196 reasonable grounds decisions were made by competent authorities based in the UKHTC and UK Border Agency during this period. 151 or just over three quarters of these individuals were found to have reasonable grounds to believe that they were trafficked.

During the same period a total of 57 conclusive grounds decisions were made by competent authorities. 43 or roughly three quarters of these individuals were found to have conclusive grounds to believe that they were trafficked.

Statistical information on the National Referral Mechanism is published quarterly on the UK Human Trafficking Centre's website

http://www.ukhtc.org/#statistical.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to extend the role and duties of the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre in anticipation of an increase in levels of human trafficking in the period immediately prior to the London 2012 Olympics. [291330]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* While there is currently no evidence to suggest that there is an increase in trafficking activity in the run-up to the Olympic games, we are keeping the intelligence under review and planning to deal with any potential increase.

The UKHTC is already engaging with the Olympic Project Group and contributing to the assessment of the threat posed by human trafficking to the 2012 Olympics. In addition the centre is liaising with police, other agencies, and non- governmental organisations to ensure that intelligence on this issue is regularly reviewed and assessed.

This will form part of our plans to deal with any potential increase and have proactive measures in place.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many referrals under the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking there have been since 1 April 2009; from which countries those referred originated; and which agencies have made such referrals. [291331]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 April 2009]*: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 August 2009 a total of 275 referrals into the National Referral Mechanism were recorded by the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). These referrals were made by the UK Border Agency, police services, local authorities and non-governmental agencies.

The individuals referred originated from 52 different countries, with the highest numbers coming from China (42), Nigeria (42) and Vietnam (30).

Statistical information on the national referral mechanism is published quarterly on the UKHTC website:

http://www.ukhtc.org/#statistical.

Statistical information for the period 1 July to 30 September will be published on the UKHTC website at the end of September 2009.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the report on the outcomes of Pentameter 2 to be available. [291746]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The outcomes of the operational phase of Pentameter 2 have been published and are available on the UKHTC website.

Evidence and analysis from Pentameter 2 is being used by the UKHTC to feed into work being undertaken by Regional Intelligence Units and its partners to produce a new estimate on the scale of trafficking for sexual exploitation. We intend to make this estimate available by the end of the year.

Human trafficking: Females

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked women have been detained in the UK in each of the last five years; and for how long on average they were detained. [291809]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained by checking individual case files only at disproportionate costs.

Under the National Referral Mechanism process, in place since 1 April 2009, when a Competent Authority establishes reasonable grounds to believe that an individual is a victim of human trafficking, that individual will not be held in immigration detention barring exceptional circumstances. When a Competent Authority identifies a victim of trafficking they should ensure that any agency investigating offences committed by the victim is made aware of the identification decision.

Identity and Passport Service: Telephone Services

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls the Identity and Passport Service advice line received in each of the last 12 months. [289522]

Mr. Woolas: The number of calls received by the Passport Adviceline for the previous 12 months, is set out in the following table:

	Number
June 2009	391,502
May 2009	302,769
April 2009	254,198
March 2009	272,367
February 2009	221,998
January 2009	234,749
December 2008	136,961
November 2008	156,925
October 2008	181,551
September 2008	214,566
August 2008	290,961
July 2008	430,704

Identity Cards

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to deter the sale of false identity cards on the internet. [291691]

Mr. Woolas: The Identity Cards Act 2006 created new criminal offences covering the possession, control and intent to use false identity cards, including a genuine document that relates to someone else. It is also an offence to make a false identity card or to have apparatus for making false cards. These offences came into force on 7 June 2006 and apply to other official identity documents, including passports, immigration documents and driving licences, as well as driving licences, passports and identity cards issued by other countries.

Identity cards to be issued under the Identity Cards Act later in the year, as well as those already being issued to foreign nationals, are highly secure and protected by a combination of physical and electronic security features designed to prevent forgery and tampering.

Identity Cards: Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many record checks have been made against the National Identity Card register by *(a)* the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency and *(b)* other Scottish agencies since the introduction of the scheme. [291640]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Identity Register will not be in place until the first identity cards are issued to British citizens later in the year. Accordingly, there have yet to be any requests for the provision of information from the register to the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency or to any other Scottish agencies.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers have been *(a)* detected and *(b)* found employing illegal immigrants under the civil penalty system under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006; and how much has been imposed in fines under that system. [291206]

Mr. Woolas [holding answer 16 September 2009]: The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 has, since it came into force on 29 February 2008, allowed the UK Border Agency to issue civil penalties of up to £10,000 per worker to employers who are found to be liable for employing illegal migrant workers.

Internal management information shows that for the period 29 February 2008 to 31 August 2009, 3509 notices of potential liability were issued to employers following enforcement visits by UK Border Agency officials of which, 2731 have so far led to notices of actual liability being served against employers, with a potential value of over £27 million in fines.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Illegal Immigrants: France

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to improve conditions for illegal immigrants in the holding area in the UK Border Agency jurisdiction in Calais. [291625]

Mr. Woolas: Both the UK and French Governments remain committed to further joint action to achieve our common goals under the strong UK-French partnership on migration.

Discussions are ongoing for the construction of a secure facility in the UK control zone to replace our existing facility. This will hold and process illegal immigrants found by UK Border Agency officials and their contractors, for short periods, until they can be handed over to the French border police and processed under French law. All details, including financing, are still under discussion between officials.

We continue to develop a package of measures to target, dismantle and prosecute the networks of facilitators and traffickers who exploit illegal immigrants. These measures include world leading technology, enhanced intelligence and closer working between all agencies.

We are concerned about the humanitarian situation faced by individuals in the Calais region and will provide support to those in genuine need. However, the message is clear—the only way to live and work in France and the UK is by legal routes.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been detected trying to enter Dover by ferry from Calais in each month since January 2009. [291627]

Mr. Woolas: From 1 January to 31 August 2009 a total of 15,753 individual attempts to enter the UK illegally were detected at the freight and tourist controls at the ferry port in Calais. The totals for each month were as follows:

	Total
January	2,097
February	2,395
March	2,244
April	2,177
May	1,801
June	1,555
July	1,780
August	1,704
Total	15,753

Note:

These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information held within locally accessed computer systems and do not represent National Statistics. They have not been the subject of National Statistics protocols and verification and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Illegal Immigration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Afghani and *(b)* Iraqi counterpart on illegal immigration in to the UK from those countries. [291626]

Mr. Woolas: My Noble Friend, Lord West met with the Iraqi Interior Minister when he visited the UK in May and migration was one of the matters they discussed. Officials are in regular contact with the authorities of both countries to discuss migration issues.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overstayers have *(a)* been granted (i) leave to remain and (ii) settlement and *(b)* been deported or otherwise removed from the UK in each year since 1997. [291300]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by undertaking a search of individual case records.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases dealt with under the legacy exercise in which leave to remain in the UK has been granted concerned individuals who *(a)* had been refused asylum and *(b)* had been refused leave to remain under the October 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise. [291302]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The information requested is not reported on by the Case Resolution Directorate and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain from those with *(a)* 10 years' lawful residence, *(b)* 14 years' lawful residence or *(c)* 14 years' unlawful residence are awaiting determination by the UK Border Agency. [291735]

Mr. Woolas: The number of applications awaiting conclusion are:

(1) 3,136 for those with 10 years continuous lawful residence;

(2) 6,900 for those with either 14 years continued residence, lawful or unlawful.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain from those with 14 years' unlawful residence are awaiting allocation to a caseworker by the UK Border Agency. [291736]

Mr. Woolas: UKBA Management Information records applications from those with over 14 years continuous residence and does not differentiate between residence applications from lawful and unlawful applicants. To ascertain the number would therefore require examination of each application at disproportionate expense.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have immigrated to the UK who were not British citizens or citizens of another EU member state in each year since 1989. [291837]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

This information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked them to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question concerning how many people have immigrated to the UK who were not British citizens or citizens of another EU member state in each year since 1989. (291837)

Table 1, attached, gives estimates of international immigration of those who were not British citizens or citizens of another EU member state between 1989 and 2007. The estimates for 1989 and 1990 are derived from the International Passenger Survey (IPS) only. The estimates for 1991 to 2007 are IPS-based but have also been adjusted to account for asylum seekers, people migrating to and from the Republic of Ireland, and people whose intended length of stay has changed from their original intentions. The information required to make these adjustments is not available prior to 1991. Estimates of the number of immigrants by citizenship are published and can be found on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=507

Table 1: International immigration: United Kingdom: Estimates 1989 to 2007, non-EU citizens

	Thousand
1989[1]	114
1990[1]	124
1991[2]	167
1992	131
1993	135
1994	156
1995	167
1996	152
1997	166
1998	206
1999	272
2000	316
2001	313
2002	357
2003	344
2004	370
2005	317
2006	343
2007	305

[1] Estimates from 1989 and 1990 are based on the International Passenger Survey (IPS) only.

[2] Estimates from 1991 to 2007 are based on the IPS and adjusted for asylum seekers, people migrating to and from the Republic of Ireland, and people whose intended length of stay has changed from their original intentions.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (*a*) employment-related grants of settlement, (*b*) family formation and reunion grants of settlement and (*c*) other grants of settlement on a discretionary basis have been made in (i) each quarter since 1 January 2006 and (ii) each year since 1992. [291838]

Mr. Woolas: The latest quarterly figures were published in table 14 in the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—Second Quarter 2009". A copy of the table is as follows. Data for quarter three are scheduled for publication on 26 November 2009.

Home Office statistical publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The latest annual figures from 1997 are given in table 1. It is not possible to provide information in the format requested prior to 1997 as this would incur disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Grants of settlement by category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[1, 2] 1997 to 2008, United Kingdom

Number of persons

Broad category of grant	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Employment[3]						
Employment with a work permit after 4/5 years	2,840	3,150	3,290	4,445	4,335	5,845
Spouses and dependants	3,565	3,790	3,580	5,140	5,045	6,835
Permit-free employment, businessman, persons of independent means	975	1,060	835	1,685	1,050	1,095
Spouses and dependants	1,195	1,190	1,005	1,115	845	680
Commonwealth citizens with a UK-born grandparent	1,110	1,675	2,340	2,580	3,255	4,060
Spouses and dependants	225	365	540	640	725	1,290
Total employment-related grants	9,910	11,230	11,480	15,610	15,255	19,800
Asylum[8]						
Refugees[9] and persons given exceptional leave to remain	4,830	6,680	22,905	25,355	17,985	18,235
Spouses and dependants	6,950	5,955	16,155	20,600	10,535	11,705
Total asylum-related grants	11,780	12,630	38,060	45,950	28,520	29,940
Family formation and reunion[10]						
Husbands[11]	10,715	13,020	14,500	14,495	16,915	15,520
Wives[11]	16,310	18,515	20,095	24,265	26,835	25,120
Children	3,830	3,865	4,340	6,870	6,795	6,355
Parents and grandparents	1,185	1,335	1,080	2,435	1,760	1,750
Other and unspecified dependants	945	200	2,065	5,000	4,570	4,015
Total family grants	32,985	39,635	42,155	53,065	56,875	52,760
Other grants on a discretionary basis[12]	4,050	6,305	4,820	11,320	7,360	10,990
Category unknown	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,400
Grand total	58,725	69,790	97,115	125,945	108,410	115,965

Number of persons

Broad category of grant	*2003*[5]	*2004*[5] [6]	*2005*[6]	*2006*[6]	*2007*[12] *	*2008*[12] *
Employment[7]						
Employment with a work permit after 4/5 years	9,190	16,205	25,470	11,270	15,165	23,275
Spouses and dependants	10,620	17,050	27,340	12,340	18,065	30,500
Permit-free employment, businessman, persons of independent means	1,550	1,545	1,945	3,265	865	2,065
Spouses and dependants	1,050	1,020	1,570	2,315	700	1,700
Commonwealth citizens with a UK-born grandparent	5,275	4,755	4,795	1,900	1,675	2,090
Spouses and dependants	1,945	1,680	1,895	740	730	970
Total employment-related grants	29,635	42,260	63,015	31,830	37,210	60,730
Asylum[8]						
Refugees[9] and persons given exceptional leave to remain	12,185	19,025	33,850	19,075	10,250	2,965
Spouses and dependants	9,915	33,525	33,960	11,580	3,940	755
Total asylum-related grants	22,100	52,555	67,810	30,655	14,190	3,720
Family formation and reunion[10]						
Husbands[11]	17,370	8,105	8,710	15,520	13,810	15,985
Wives[11]	30,790	12,920	15,585	27,200	23,175	25,335
Children	8,950	5,850	6,715	9,290	8,405	8,250
Parents and grandparents	3,090	1,985	1,450	1,470	1,000	970
Other and unspecified dependants	5,000	4,380	4,880	6,325	4,545	4,780
Total family grants	65,200	33,240	37,335	59,800	50,820	55,325
Other grants on a discretionary basis[12]	16,140	6,715	6,400	7,720	18,750	28,030
Category unknown	6,175	4,440	4,565	4,440	3,880	900
Grand total	139,280	139,210	179,120	134,445	124,855	148,740

* = Provisional

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Nationals of EU accession countries are included or excluded according to their accession date.

[2] Data from 2003 exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.

[3] Excludes reconsideration cases.

[4] May include a small number of cases in which a decision is recorded twice, where an individual has dual nationality.

[5] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.

[6] Excludes Bulgaria and Romania.

[7] In 2006 the qualifying period for settlement in all employment-related categories changed from four to five years.

[8] Includes grants under the Family ILR exercise.

[9] Excludes reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.

[10] Spouses and dependants joining British citizens or persons previously granted settlement.

[11] Includes civil and unmarried partners.

[12] Data for 2007 and 2008 include persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases.

Data rounded to the nearest 5.

Table 14. Grants of settlement[1] [2] [3] *by category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals*[4] [5]*, Q1 2006 to Q2 2009*

Number of persons

Broad category of grant	*2006*					*2007*				
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Employment[6]										
Employment with a work permit after 4/5 years	7,200	2,670	685	710	11,270	1,350	2,880	5,550	5,385	15,165
Spouses and dependants	8,255	2,900	635	550	12,340	1,150	3,470	6,795	6,650	18,065
Permit-free employment, businessman, persons of independent means	705	1,820	620	120	3,265	90	175	340	265	865
Spouses and dependants	530	1,305	405	75	2,315	40	120	305	240	700
Commonwealth citizens with a UK-born grandparent	1,380	380	75	50	1,900	90	400	700	480	1,675

Table 14: Grants of settlement[1, 2, 3] by category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[4, 5] Q1 2006 to Q2 2009

Number of persons

Broad category of grant	*2006*					*2007*				
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*
Spouses and dependants	520	160	40	20	740	30	150	325	230	730
Total employment-related grants	18,600	9,245	2,455	1,530	31,830	2,750	7,195	14,020	13,250	37,210
Asylum[7]										
Refugees[8] and persons given ELR, HP or DL[9]	7,460	3,770	2,365	5,480	19,075	4,350	4,630	735	540	10,250
Spouses and dependants	6,315	2,460	1,120	1,680	11,580	1,575	1,390	570	405	3,940
Total asylum-related grants	13,775	6,225	3,485	6,960	30,655	5,920	6,020	1,300	945	14,190
Family formation and reunion[10]										
Husbands[11]	4,235	3,815	3,995	3,475	15,520	4,340	3,010	3,380	3,080	13,810
Wives[11]	7,080	6,805	7,250	6,065	27,200	7,215	5,095	5,760	5,100	23,175
Children	2,445	2,375	2,695	1,775	9,290	2,010	2,445	2,305	1,735	8,495
Parents and grandparents	400	355	360	355	1,470	285	280	215	220	1,000
Other and unspecified dependants	1,570	1,655	1,720	1,380	6,325	960	1,075	1,340	970	4,345
Total family grants	15,730	15,005	16,020	13,050	59,800	14,810	11,905	13,000	11,110	50,820
Other grants on a discretionary basis[12]	1,780	1,830	2,100	2,010	7,720	1,490	985	5,785	10,495	18,750
Category unknown	1,200	1,175	1,060	1,005	4,440	1,165	995	930	795	3,880
All grants of settlement	50,965	33,465	25,430	24,585	134,445	26,130	27,095	35,040	36,590	124,855

Number of persons

	2008					*2009*[p]	
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*
Employment[6]							
Employment with a work permit after 4/5 years	6,210	5,765	5,585	5,715	23,275	6,565	6,565
Spouses and dependants	7,815	7,215	7,360	8,190	30,580	9,185	9,895
							1,000
Permit free employment, businessmen, persons of independent means	435	470	605	555	2,065	575	
Spouses and dependants	380	400	510	500	1,790	540	1,260
Commonwealth citizens with a UK born grandparent	655	615	445	375	2,090	460	705
Spouses and dependants	280	300	225	165	970	225	369
Total employment-related grants	15,775	14,760	14,730	15,505	60,770	17,550	19,815
							496
Asylum[7]							
Refugees[8] and persons given ELR, HP or DL[9]	480	535	1,050	900	2,965	535	111
Spouses and dependants	230	115	190	220	755	270	
Total asylum-related grants	715	650	1,240	1,115	3,720	805	19,815
Family formation and reunion[10]							
Husbands[11]	3,995	4,455	4,140	3,395	15,985	6,250	4,521
Wives[11]	6,185	7,105	6,440	5,605	25,335	10,425	8,420
Children	1,920	2,235	2,245	1,850	8,250	2,250	2,560
Parents and grandparents	260	255	245	210	970	125	
Other and unspecified dependants	1,195	1,425	1,220	940	4,780	810	1,210
Total family grants	13,555	15,475	14,290	12,005	55,325	19,860	16,965
Other grants on a discretionary basis[12]	10,195	5,375	5,455	7,005	28,030	19,860	16,965
Category unknown	375	235	190	100	900	95	8,682

Number of persons

	2008^{R}					2009^{P}	
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Total*	*Q1*	*Q2*
All grants of settlement	40,590	36,510	35,910	35,730	148,740	44,870	46,120

^{P} = Provisional figures.

^{R} = revised figures.

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Includes reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.

[3] May include a small number of cases in which a decision is recorded twice, where an individual has dual nationality.

[4] Data exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.

[5] Excludes Bulgaria and Romania from 1 January 2007.

[6] In April 2006, the qualifying period for settlement in all employment-related categories changed from 4 to 5 years delaying grants of settlement that would otherwise have occurred earlier.

[7] Asylum-related grants of settlement were at high levels between Q1 2006 and Q2 2007 due to the Family Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) exercise and due to grants to persons given exceptional leave four years previously.

[8] Excludes reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.

[9] Exceptional leave to remain (ELR), Humanitarian Protection (HP), Discretionary Leave (DL).

[10] Spouses and dependants joining British citizens or persons previously granted settlement.

[11] Includes civil and unmarried partners.

[12] Data from Q3 2007 include persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grants of settlement have been made to persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of unresolved cases in each year since the inception of such measures. [291841]

Mr. Woolas: The Case Resolution Directorate was set up in April 2007 to deal with the backlog of unresolved asylum cases. The Case Resolution Directorate grants both indefinite leave to remain and limited leave depending on the individual circumstances of the case. UKBA does not hold records of the number of individuals granted indefinite leave to remain each year and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Lin Homer, the Chief Executive of the United Kingdom Border Agency, provides a six-monthly written update to the Home Affairs Select Committee which details the total number of concluded cases, broken down by removals, grants of status and other conclusions. Copies of these letters are available in the House of Commons Library.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Immigration and Nationality Department plans to reply to the letters of 26 June and 8 July 2009 from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West on Ezekiel Nutebuka. [289262]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency Deputy Director for the North West, (Kevin Romano), wrote to the hon. Member on 28 July.

Immigration: Appeals

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it takes for the outcome of an immigration appeal to be communicated to those officials responsible for implementing the decision. [291873]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the average length of time it takes for the outcome of an immigration appeal to be communicated to those officials responsible for implementing the decision is not available. This can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost by examining individual case records.

The UK Border Agency has, however, recently reviewed the processes involved in granting status following a successful appeal. The review has identified potential process amendments to make the system more timely and a workshop to consider how changes could be implemented has recently taken place.

One of these amendments includes looking into the possibility of introducing targets for the granting of status following an allowed appeal. Arrangements have been made to monitor progress in this area.

Immigration: France

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he last met his French counterpart to discuss immigration issues; and if he will make a statement. [291623]

Mr. Woolas: The UK and French Governments maintain regular contact in the area of immigration. I met with Eric Besson, the French Minister for Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Solidarity-based Development at the UK-France summit in Evian on 6 July 2009, where we both committed to further action to combat illegal immigration, including through strengthening security at the shared border and taking resolute action to reduce the pull factors for illegal immigrants and criminal networks.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department plans to announce its policy conclusions following the end of the vehicle immobilisation consultation. [290988]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The public consultation on the licensing of vehicle immobilisation businesses ended on 23 July. Over 500 responses have been received. These are being analysed and will be published in due course.

Proposals for the licensing of vehicle immobilisation businesses were also included in the proposed 5th session Policing, Crime and Private Security Bill in the draft legislative programme consultation which was published in June 2009. The Government's 5th session legislative programme will be announced by Her Majesty the Queen on 18 November.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for the management of the performance of the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [289345]

Mr. Hanson: The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) are sponsored by the Home Office and responsible to the Home Secretary for ensuring they exercise their functions effectively and appropriately. The ISA Performance Management Framework is currently being developed and will include monitoring of the ISA business plan, service plans and key performance indicators. The ISA Board receive monthly performance reports, and monthly reporting of performance is submitted to the Home Office through its sponsor unit. Performance information will be published in the ISA's annual report.

Staff performance is monitored through a performance development review process.

Internet

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 963W, on the internet, what estimate his Department has made of the cost of sponsoring such systems in each of the next five years; [289050]

(2) for what reasons such communications data are collected; [289051]

(3) on how many occasions stored communications data have been used in the last two years; [289052]

(4) what contribution internet service providers make to the cost of systems sponsored by his Department; [289053]

(5) what proportion of the cost of sponsoring systems to enable communications service providers to store communications data his Department funds; [289048]

(6) to what use his Department puts the information stored by communication services providers; how often it has accessed such stored information in each of the last five years; what steps his Department takes to ensure the security of such information; and on how many occasions in the last five years such information has assisted in the positive identification of a person preparing terrorist acts. [289448]

Mr. Hanson: Communications service providers (CSP) are reimbursed by Government grant for their reasonable and agreed costs in retaining communications data that they are required or permitted to retain under the Data Retention (EC Directive) Regulations 2009 or under the code of practice on data retention approved by Parliament under Part 11 of the Anti-Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 (ATCSA).

The Regulations require the retention of communication data for the investigation, detection and prosecution of serious crime. The ATCSA permits communications data retention for the purposes of safeguarding national security and for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime. The Government grant covers the total cost of installing or modifying equipment or implementing new processes to enable the effective and efficient retention of communications data. An independent and regulated audit firm is retained by the Home Office to ensure that costs are reasonable; that the reimbursement is for legitimate expenditure; and that CSPs do not derive commercial benefit from processes developed with these grants. CSPs are required to contribute if they receive a commercial benefit.

The independent and regulated audit firm also conducts security assessments to ensure that each CSP's data retention solution meets both industry best practice and Government and law enforcement rules on handling personal data.

The passing of the security assessment is a requirement of being reimbursed by the Home Office.

The UK Borders Agency (UKBA) is the only part of the Home Office that is able to acquire communications data. The UKBA acquires communications data to prevent and detect crime in relation to immigration offences or customs detection work at the UK borders. The Interception of Communications Commissioner compiles statistics on the acquisition of communications data by public authorities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In calendar year 2008 there were 504,073 requirements made of CSPs; the corresponding figure for 2007 was 519,260. The Interception Commissioner has not detailed the figures by individual public authority.

The forecast expenditure on communication data retention systems is £30.35 million which is broken down as per the following table:

		£ million
Financial year	*Capital*	*Resource*
2009-10	12.10	1.90
2010-11	12.20	2.63
2011-12	6.05	2.99
2012-13	6.05	2.88
2013-14	6.05	2.76

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 13 July 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr Muhammad Irfan. [290646]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 8 September 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter to him dated 27 July 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr S Malik. [290990]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 September 2009.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to respond to the letter of 27 July 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent. [291088]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* My hon. Friend's letter was passed to the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency for reply. The Chief Executive replied on 11 September 2009.

Michael Shields

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the cost Merseyside police has incurred in investigating the case of Michael Shields. [291013]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The Home Office does not hold this information. This is a matter for the chief constable of Merseyside.

National Identity Register

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means persons who *(a)* hold and *(b)* wish to renew a passport will be able to opt out of the National Identity Register. [290464]

Mr. Hanson: For the time being, the identity details of anyone issued with a passport will continue to be held on the existing passport database by the Identity and Passport Service and from this autumn, the identity details of anyone issued with an identity card will be held on the National Identity Register.

However, the Government intend to legislate, so that anyone applying for a passport or identity card from 2012 onwards would have their identity details held on a single National Identity Register and would be offered a choice of receiving a separate identity card or passport or both documents.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data his Department holds on the relationship between viewing images of child abuse online and child abuse. [291750]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This is a subject that is of concern to the UK and other countries, and earlier this year law enforcement, represented for the UK by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), Government and academic experts from the G8 nations and others came together to discuss these issues. This led to a G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Statement on "The risk to children posed by child pornography offenders". The experts concluded that there was a relationship between viewing and contact offending, although more work was required to determine the exact nature of that relationship. Additionally there was a recognition that, based on conviction evidence a significant proportion of "image" offenders had committed some form of contact offence; and the exchange of child abuse images and communication between child sexual offenders was used by them to legitimise and normalise their beliefs and behaviours providing a social context which encourages the further exploitation of children.

Offensive Weapons

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the change in the number of knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police between 2007-08 and 2008-09. [289596]

Alan Johnson: Comparisons between 2007-08 and 2008-09 are possible for the offences of homicide (figures for 2008-09 are provisional), attempted murder and robbery.

Homicides and attempted murders are rare and account for less than one per cent. of all knife offences. As such, comparisons should be interpreted with caution.

Information for these offences is given in the following table.

Additional offence categories (threats to kill, ABH, sexual assault and rape offences where a knife was involved) were added to the knife crime collection in 2008-09; therefore comparisons are not possible.

For GBH offences, it is not possible to compare between 2007-08 and 2008-09. This is due to a change in the clarification rules for recording GBH with intent, and a change in the definition of GBH without intent. Under advice from the National Statistician the offences of GBH with and without intent and ABH and other injury were combined when published. Further information is given in Box 2.1 on page 14 of Crime in England and Wales, 2008-09: Volume 1.

Number of knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for homicide, attempted murder and robbery

Offence	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Percentage change between 2007-08 and 2008-09*
Homicide[1]	270	252	-7
Attempted murder	245	271	11
Robbery	17,058	16,701	-2

[1] Includes provisional figures for 2008-09. For 2007-08, offences are those currently recorded by the police as at 4 November 2008 and are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries arising from knives used in the course of a crime (i) in total and (ii) per person in (A) England and (B) Wales in each year since 1997. [291170]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Centrally available information relates to homicides by sharp instrument recorded in England and Wales each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08.

Injuries data are not collected centrally.

Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2], England and Wales 1997-98 to 2007-08[3]

Year offence initially recorded as homicide[4]	*England*	*Wales*
1997-98	191	11
1998-99	189	12
1999-2000	204	9
2000-01	208	7
2001-02	247	14
2002-03	256	10
2003-04	230	3

Homicides currently recorded[1] where apparent method of killing is sharp instrument[2]: England and Wales 1997-98 to2007-08[3]

Year offence initially recorded as homicide[4]	England	Wales
2004-05	247	13
2005-06	212	7
2006-07	258	11
2007-08	259	11

[1] As at 4 November 2008; figures are revised as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Includes knives as well as other sharp instruments.

[3] Data for 2008-09 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

[4] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* under 18-year-olds and *(b)* 18-year-olds and over were convicted in each police authority area of illegally carrying (i) knives and (ii) other weapons in (A) 2007-08 and (B) 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [290972]

Mr. Hanson [holding answer 14 September 2009]: The information is provided by the Ministry of Justice.

Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts of illegally carrying knives and other weapons in England and Wales, broken down by age and force for 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table. Court proceedings data are published by calendar year; 2007 is the latest available, data for 2008 are due to be available towards the end of 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for illegally carrying knives[1] and other weapons[2], England and Wales, by age and force, 2007[3, 4]

Force	Age	Knives	Other weapons
Avon and Somerset	10-17	29	29
	18 and over	134	148
	Total	163	177
Bedfordshire	10-17	19	13
	18 and over	43	75
	Total	62	88
Cambridgeshire	10-17	11	11
	18 and over	43	64
	Total	54	75
Cheshire	10-17	15	20
	18 and over	93	92
	Total	108	112
City of London	10-17	0	0
	18 and over	9	7
	Total	9	7
Cleveland	10-17	15	15
	18 and over	75	97
	Total	90	112
Cumbria	10-17	8	16
	18 and over	38	73
	Total	46	89
Derbyshire	10-17	21	25
	18 and over	78	118
	Total	99	143
Devon and Cornwall	10-17	19	21
	18 and over	119	95
	Total	138	116
Dorset	10-17	13	11
	18 and over	50	54
	Total	63	65
Durham	10-17	21	33
	18 and over	71	89
	Total	92	122
Essex	10-17	32	43
	18 and over	128	135
	Total	160	178
Gloucestershire	10-17	10	17
	18 and over	31	36
	Total	41	53
Greater Manchester	10-17	76	125
	18 and over	318	480
	Total	394	605
Hampshire	10-17	37	58
	18 and over	132	184
	Total	169	242
Hertfordshire	10-17	18	29
	18 and over	50	90
	Total	68	119
Humberside	10-17	27	34
	18 and over	120	112
	Total	147	146
Kent	10-17	0	36
	18 and over	5	152
	Total	5	188
Lancashire	10-17	24	64
	18 and over	127	200
	Total	151	264
Leicestershire	10-17	26	40
	18 and over	92	132
	Total	118	172
Lincolnshire	10-17	4	16
	18 and over	43	58
	Total	47	74
Merseyside	10-17	39	67
	18 and over	176	290
	Total	215	357
Metropolitan Police	10-17	321	415
	18 and over	1,138	1,448
	Total	1,459	1,863
Norfolk	10-17	8	15
	18 and over	70	66
	Total	78	81

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for illegally carrying knives[1] and other weapons[2], England and Wales, by age and force, 2007[3] [4]

Force	Age	Knives	Other weapons
North Yorkshire	10-17	12	25
	18 and over	40	77
	Total	52	102
Northamptonshire	10-17	1	6
	18 and over	3	33
	Total	4	39
Northumbria	10-17	62	76
	18 and over	197	269
	Total	259	345
Nottinghamshire	10-17	35	48
	18 and over	117	165
	Total	152	213
South Yorkshire	10-17	31	47
	18 and over	107	163
	Total	138	210
Staffordshire	10-17	21	30
	18 and over	65	138
	Total	86	168
Suffolk	10-17	17	17
	18 and over	72	66
	Total	89	[illegible]
Surrey	10-17	5	12
	18 and over	37	46
	Total	42	58
Sussex	10-17	31	34
	18 and over	109	119
	Total	140	153
Thames Valley	10-17	25	41
	18 and over	114	153
	Total	139	194
Warwickshire	10-17	6	8
	18 and over	26	43
	Total	32	51
West Mercia	10-17	19	21
	18 and over	81	101
	Total	100	122
West Midlands	10-17	77	121
	18 and over	315	420
	Total	392	541
West Yorkshire	10-17	36	60
	18 and over	154	265
	Total	190	325
Wiltshire	10-17	11	9
	18 and over	37	48
	Total	48	57
Dyfed-Powys	10-17	9	6
	18 and over	26	28
	Total	35	34
Gwent	10-17	13	12
	18 and over	53	72
	Total	66	84
North Wales	10-17	10	21
	18 and over	79	94
	Total	89	115
South Wales	10-17	16	33
	18 and over	124	209
	Total	140	242
England and Wales	10-17	1230	1780
	18 and over	4939	6804
	Total	6,169	8,584

[1] Covers:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S139, S139A(1)(5)(a)

[2] Covers;
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S139A(2)(5)(b).
Firearms Act 1968 S1(1), S5(1), S5(1)(b),S5(1A)(b)(c),(d)(e)(f) or (g), 5(1A)(a), S2(1), S16,S16A, S17(2), S18 (1), S19, S21(4) S22(2),(3)1(4),(5).
Prevention of Crime Act 1953 S1(1).

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Ref: IOS 445-09

Olympic Security Directorate: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent members of staff are employed in his Department's Olympic Security Directorate; and at what cost in 2009-10. [291155]

Mr. Woolas: *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* There are currently 22 FTE staff in post in the Olympic and Paralympics Security Directorate. As Olympic security projects develop this will rise, on current projections, to 83.5 FTE. The forecast full year salary costs for Olympic Security and Paralympic Security Directorate are £3.6 million.

Opiates

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the weight notified of *(a)* opiate raw materials, *(b)* opiate medicinal products, *(c)* oxycodone raw material and *(d)* codeine raw material was seized by UK drug enforcement authorities in each year between 1999 and 2009. [290064]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data on seizures of opiate raw materials, medicinal opium and oxycodone for 2006-07 and 2007-08 (latest available) are provided in the following table. Data on the separate preparation types seized are provided separately of amounts of weighed items, as it is not possible to accurately estimate the weights of drugs seized in the form of wraps or bags.

Information on seizures of raw codeine is not available.

Data on seizures for the drugs requested are presented as 'Other Class A' in publications. These seizures cannot be extracted from these classifications prior to 2006-07.

Data for 2008-09 are scheduled to be published in October 2009.

Quantity[1] of seizures made by the police for selected drugs, by drug preparation type and year, England and Wales 2006-07 and 2007-08

	Quantity of seizures	
Drug Type	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Opium (raw)		
Any weighed items (KG)	4.0	7.4
Wraps/bags (number)	18	7
Opium (medicinal)		
Any weighed items (KG)	—	0.034
Tablets/capsules (number)	60	
Wraps/bags (number)	—	—
Liquid (ml)	—	424
Oxycodone		
Any weighed items (KG)	—	—
Tablets / capsules (number)	133	157

[1] Drugs can be seized in a variety of forms or preparation types. In this table, data on the separate preparation types seized are provided separately of amounts of weighed items, as it is not possible to accurately estimate the weights of drugs seized in the form of wraps or bags.

Passports

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passport applications and renewals were processed at each Identity and Passport Service location in each of the last 12 months. [289524]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of renewal applications and the total of all applications processed by the IPS examination teams from each region from July 2008 to June 2009.

	Region	*Renewals*	*Total*
2008			
July	Belfast	25,394	35,119
	Durham	131,574	190,270
	Glasgow	17,637	26,750
	Liverpool	72,771	107,078
	London	16,118	23,560
	Newport	59,631	84,752
	Peterborough	74,245	107,339
August	Belfast	19,939	28,999
	Durham	88,580	137,304
	Glasgow	16,200	24,184
	Liverpool	54,697	84,535
	London	13,951	19,543
	Newport	42,035	62,716
	Peterborough	51,075	77,386
September	Belfast	16,264	23,469
	Durham	69,866	100,291
	Glasgow	7,624	12,486
	Liverpool	38,594	60,949
	London	9,433	15,439
	Newport	34,255	47,892
	Peterborough	48,176	70,463
October	Belfast	16,388	23,192
	Durham	66,692	93,633
	Glasgow	2,373	4,013
	Liverpool	30,972	48,656
	London	9,613	14,932
	Newport	31,101	43,254
	Peterborough	43,844	62,633
November	Belfast	14,286	20,121
	Durham	57,422	81,274
	Glasgow	1,453	2,552
	Liverpool	27,853	41,681
	London	7,017	11,418
	Newport	28,968	38,994
	Peterborough	34,125	47,178
December	Belfast	10,925	15,676
	Durham	38,213	58,233
	Glasgow	1,692	2,794
	Liverpool	22,271	33,831
	London	8,022	12,686
	Newport	24,528	33,867
	Peterborough	24,334	35,388
2009			
January	Belfast	21,205	27,422
	Durham	106,296	137,030
	Glasgow	1,929	3,105
	Liverpool	52,015	69,272
	London	9,223	13,667
	Newport	56,111	70,063
	Peterborough	62,744	81,257
February	Belfast	25,731	33,897
	Durham	111,613	149,532
	Glasgow	1,770	2,803
	Liverpool	60,538	82,230
	London	8,659	12,975
	Newport	56,972	73,092
	Peterborough	67,587	89,605
March	Belfast	26,977	37,336
	Durham	131,158	180,080
	Glasgow	2,554	3,948
	Liverpool	74,262	103,527
	London	13,707	19,229
	Newport	70,260	92,146
	Peterborough	92,462	124,218
April	Belfast	25,952	35,819
	Durham	121,299	166,226
	Glasgow	2,421	3,878

	Region	*Renewals*	*Total*
	Liverpool	51,673	76,778
	London	13,933	19,240
	Newport	62,138	81,982
	Peterborough	76,486	107,759
May	Belfast	25,625	34,606
	Durham	110,652	156,347
	Glasgow	2,827	4,601
	Liverpool	43,126	64,690
	London	16,121	21,635
	Newport	62,287	80,955
	Peterborough	78,925	106,658
June	Belfast	27,577	37,791
	Durham	146,172	203,884
	Glasgow	7,760	9,897
	Liverpool	68,474	92,178
	London	19,400	26,554
	Newport	76,079	99,652
	Peterborough	97,481	131,720
	Total	3,600,332	5,035,814

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken to process passport applications and renewals was at each Identity and Passport Service location in each of the last 12 months. [289525]

Mr. Woolas: The following table show the average days taken to process all straight forward properly completed applications for each of the last 12 months and for each regional office.

	2008						*2009*						
Regional Office	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Overall average days*
Belfast	4.9	2.9	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.0	1.8	2.2	3.1	3.0	4.8	8.0	3.5
Durham	5.5	3.8	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.6	2.1	2.7	4.8	6.7	3.4
Glasgow	5.6	3.1	1.9	1.8	3.2	2.7	1.7	1.8	2.3	1.4	2.4	2.8	3.7
Liverpool	6.5	3.5	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9	3.2	4.5	6.2	3.4
London	1.1	1.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.2	3.1	2.0	2.4
Newport	5.2	3.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.4	2.0	3.9	6.4	2.8
Peterborough	5.9	3.5	2.1	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.5	2.1	2.4	2.9	4.7	7.2	3.6
Overall average	5.7	3.5	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.7	4.5	6.6	3.3

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets the Identity and Passport Service has set for processing of passport applications and renewals. [289526]

Mr. Woolas: The Identity and Passport Service's published target for the processing of passport application is: to deliver 99.5 per cent. of straightforward online, partner and postal adult renewal and first-time child applications within 10 working days.

Passports: Biometrics

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence his Department used to evaluate the effectiveness of e-passports on *(a)* security and *(b)* efficiency of border immigration arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [291313]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: The introduction by the UK of the e-passport containing the holder's personal details and facial image on a contactless chip was part of a major international drive to make travel documents more secure. The UK e-passport's physical and electronic security features are a significant impediment to forgers and counterfeiters. The UK e-passport is recognised as a high integrity document, and there is no evidence that anyone has modified or changed the data within the chip on the e-passport in a way that would pass through the checks made at UK border control.

In terms of security, if the UK had not introduced the e-passport then there was a risk that the UK passport would have received greater attention from fraudsters and counterfeiters. Also, UK nationals would have been treated less favourably than those of other nations at border controls and not have been able to travel visa free to the United States.

The greater assurance and integrity offered by the e-passport enables border control authorities worldwide to spend more time dealing with higher risk passengers. Accessing the data held on the e-passport automatically, enables UK Border Force officers to use their time more efficiently on improved security and fraud checks, making our border even more secure. Additionally, the UK Border Agency is encouraging e-passport holders to use the facial recognition gates currently being trialled in the UK, providing the travelling public with an easier passage through the controls.

Police Cautions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of how many incidents of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary, *(e)* theft, *(f)* fraud and forgery, *(g)* criminal damages and *(h)* drugs offences police cautions were given in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and what proportion of such incidents was first offences in each such year. [290718]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The numbers of cautions issued by the police for the specified offence groups are given in the table. Information on whether such incidents were first offences cannot be derived from the police recorded crime statistics collected centrally by the Home Office.

Number of cautions issued by police for each main offence group, England and Wales

Offence group	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Violence against the person	154,734	131,115
Sexual offences	2,972	2,747
Robbery	657	555
Burglary	5,756	4,882
Offences against vehicles	6,962	6,183
Other theft offences	64,818	60,304
Fraud and Forgery	10,639	9,178
Criminal damage	54,889	46,556
Drug offences	47,616	49,421
Other offences	8,866	8,354
All offences	357,909	319,295

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of their working time on average *(a)* all police officers and *(b)* patrol officers spent on (i) incident-related paperwork, (ii) non-incident-related paperwork and *(c)* patrol in England and Wales in 2008-09; and what the frontline policing measure for each police force in England and Wales was in that year. [291246]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: It is not possible to supply the data requested, because ABC data collection has been discontinued.

Police: Equipment

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of providing stab-proof vests for *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers. [289466]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are clear that police officers should have the best possible protection when facing the physical violence that is sometimes directed against them. The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) provides scientific and technical advice to the police that covers the development of police specific standards for personal protective equipment, including body armour.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to increase *(a)* racial equality within and *(b)* recruitment of people from ethnic minorities to the West Midlands police service. [291529]

Mr. Hanson: Recruitment to and equality and diversity issues within West Midlands police are a matter for the chief constable. However, all 43 Home Office forces currently use the Police SEARCH assessment centre for purposes of officer recruitment, which objectively and fairly assesses applicants against the skills and abilities required to perform effectively as a police constable.

In addition, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) encourages police forces to use positive action initiatives to target recruits from ethnic minority and underrepresented groups, and a Positive Action Events Toolkit, produced by the Home Office in conjunction with police authorities, is currently available for use by all police forces. The NPIA is also actively engaging with groups such as the National Black Police Association and the National Association of Muslim Police to attract candidates for future roles.

To assist police forces further, the NPIA is launching an Equality Standard for the police service later this year, which will be available to every police force in England and Wales. The Equality Standard has been designed to contribute to attracting, retaining and developing a skilled and diverse workforce to reflect the communities served.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the police authority precept was for each authority in England and Wales in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what percentage of each authority's total income precept funding was requested in each year. [291248]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	2007-08		*2008-09*	
Police authorities	*Council tax requirement (£ million)*	*Budget met by council tax (percentage)*	*Council tax requirement (£ million)*	*Budget met by council tax (percentage)*
Avon and Somerset	80.39	32.31	85.26	32.86
Bedfordshire	24.75	27.13	27.49	28.62
Cambridgeshire	39.40	33.96	41.99	34.81
Cheshire	42.56	27.04	50.34	29.95
Cleveland	26.50	22.13	29.27	23.49
Cumbria	29.89	31.79	31.66	32.50
Derbyshire	45.63	30.11	48.05	30.56

Police authorities	*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
	Council tax requirement (£ million)	*Budget met by council tax (percentage)*	*Council tax requirement (£ million)*	*Budget met by council tax (percentage)*
Devon and Cornwall	78.64	30.62	85.66	31.95
Dorset	45.35	42.07	47.94	42.89
Durham	25.11	22.35	26.70	23.00
Dyfed-Powys	31.80	37.40	33.86	38.94
Essex	73.23	30.23	77.63	30.92
Gloucestershire	38.92	40.69	41.14	41.49
Greater Manchester	90.79	17[illegible]	98.76	18.12
Gwent	32.00	28.40	33.70	29.48
Hampshire	84.04	29.81	91.65	31.15
Hertfordshire	56.62	33.02	60.23	33.79
Humberside	42.23	25.61	44.33	26.12
Kent	75.16	29.14	79.68	29.86
Lancashire	58.56	23.18	63.39	24.19
Leicestershire	42.95	27.76	49.93	30.32
Lincolnshire	29.71	32.87	38.10	37.86
Merseyside	54.15	17.62	56.68	17.87
Metropolitan	648.96	25.62	664.97	25.63
Norfolk	47.44	36.12	52.05	37.64
North Wales	48.49	37.90	51.25	39.60
North Yorkshire	54.18	42.45	57.12	43.20
Northamptonshire	38.23	34.66	40.86	35.59
Northumbria	31.90	11.81	33.77	12.16
Nottinghamshire	45.00	25.34	47.63	25.79
South Wales	59.93	25.40	63.60	26.47
South Yorkshire	44.71	18.66	47.04	19.08
Staffordshire	56.40	33.01	58.81	33.39
Suffolk	34.08	33.46	37.50	35.09
Surrey	83.21	46.07	92.05	48.07
Sussex	75.64	31.90	79.87	32.59
Thames Valley	117.82	34.21	123.93	34.80
Warwickshire	28.59	35.71	32.63	38.20
West Mercia	67.95	36.87	71.71	37.61
West Midlands	71.58	13.72	74.88	13.78
West Yorkshire	77.82	19.65	82.30	20.03
Wiltshire	33.64	35.03	35.59	35.85

Police: Sick Leave

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer working days were lost due to *(a)* stress and *(b)* illness in each police force in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [291247]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Breakdowns for the type of sickness absence are not collected centrally.

Data on the amount of police officer working days lost to sickness are not available, but data on the amount of working hours are given in the annual Police Performance information. These are shown as the average number of police officer hours lost per person per year based on figures provided by individual forces.

Data for 2007-08 can be found at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/.

Data for 2008-09 will be available after publication of the Analysis of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) data later in the year.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have been granted early release in the last 12 months; and how many such persons had been convicted of violent offences. [290103]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

Eligible prisoners may be released into the community earlier than the halfway point of their sentence under the home detention curfew (HDC) or end of custody licence (ECL) schemes.

I refer the hon. Member to the bulletin, Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2008, which was published on 31 July 2009. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of this House. In addition, information on the end of custody licence scheme is published on a monthly basis on the Ministry of Justice website. The latest report relates to the position at the end of July 2009 and can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm.

I hope that this will provide additional context to the statistics supplied in the answer.

Between September 2008 and August 2009, there were 30,719 prisoners released from all prison establishments in England and Wales under the end of custody licence scheme, of which 6,300 were originally detained for an offence of violence against the person. Those convicted of the most serious violent offences (which includes, for example, all terrorism legislation offences, manslaughter, wounding with intent to commit grievous bodily harm and cruelty to children) are not eligible for release on ECL.

During 2008, there were 11,721 prisoners released from all prison establishments in England and Wales under the home detention curfew scheme, of which 2,160 were originally detained for offences of violence against the person. This information can be found in table 9.16 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk//publications/prisonandprobation.htm.

The figures quoted above have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prostitution

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many brothels have been raided by the police in England and Wales in each of the last three years; and how much money has been seized under proceeds of crime legislation as a result of such raids. [291081]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* This information is not available.

Public Order Offences: Photography

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* charged with offences related to taking photographs in public places in the last 12 months. [291680]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Offences related to taking photographs in public places are not notifiable offences and do not form part of this collection.

Public Telecommunications Systems

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an assessment of the merits of merging the Airwave network with the London Secure Communications Network before the London 2012 Olympics. [289369]

Mr. Hanson: The additional communications requirements for the Olympics have been identified for all emergency services and drawn together into a single requirement. These enhancements are on schedule to be delivered for the 2012 Olympic games.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the emergency telecommunications support network will be operational before the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [289371]

Mr. Hanson: The enhancements to the emergency services' Airwave radio system required for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games are currently on schedule.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the *(a)* capacity, *(b)* coverage and *(c)* resilience which the Airwave network will have by the time of the 2012 Olympics. [289372]

Mr. Hanson: As part of the Home Office-led 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Programme, operational requirements for additional Airwave capacity and coverage for the 2012 Games have been captured for all emergency services.

These, together with data about the current capacity and coverage of the Airwave system, have formed the basis for negotiations with the supplier regarding enhancements to the Airwave network for the Olympics. Some additional resilience is planned for critical elements as part of this Olympic enhancement.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially-motivated crimes were committed in each police force area in 2008-09. [290974]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The available statistics relate to racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police for some specific crime categories and are given in the table. It is not possible to separately identify those of a racial nature from those of a religious nature.

Total racially or religiously aggravated offences[1] recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2008-09

Police force area	*Number of offences*
Avon and Somerset	1,148
Bedfordshire	230
British Transport Police	1,287
Cambridgeshire	402
Cheshire	424
Cleveland	288
Cumbria	188
Derbyshire	469
Devon and Cornwall	588
Dorset	302
Durham	220
Dyfed-Powys	113
Essex	871
Gloucestershire	277
Greater Manchester	3,586
Gwent	205
Hampshire	1,089
Hertfordshire	709
Humberside	374
Kent	755
Lancashire	846
Leicestershire	953
Lincolnshire	155

Total racially or religiously aggravated offences[1] recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2008-09

Police force area	*Number of offences*
London, City of	57
Merseyside	1,059
Metropolitan Police	7,955
Norfolk	234
Northamptonshire	359
Northumbria	808
North Wales	300
North Yorkshire	193
Nottinghamshire	840
South Wales	610
South Yorkshire	774
Staffordshire	760
Suffolk	322
Surrey	328
Sussex	586
Thames Valley	1,350
Warwickshire	351
West Mercia	481
West Midlands	2,859
West Yorkshire	2,122
Wiltshire	207
England and Wales total	38,054

[1] Includes the following racially or religiously aggravated offences: GBH without intent, ABH or other injury, harassment, public fear, alarm or distress, assault without injury and criminal damage.

Reoffenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persistent and prolific offenders were identified in each police force area in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [290973]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* Data from the performance management arrangements for the Prolific and other Priority Offender Programme provide the number of such offenders identified through partnership arrangements in each police force area. The data are provided in the table. The data cover the financial year 2007-08 from April 2007 up to March 2008, and the financial year 2008-09 from April 2008 up to March 2009. They are the most recent data available. These figures rely on the accuracy and completeness of the data provided locally by Prolific and other Priority Offender schemes.

Number of Prolific and other Priority Offenders by police force area, 2007-08 and 2008-09

Police force area	*1 April 2007-31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008-31 March 2009*
Avon and Somerset	303	347
Bedfordshire	168	140
Cambridgeshire	209	296
Cheshire	248	240
City of London	20	18
Cleveland	204	211
Cumbria	102	111
Derbyshire	467	426
Devon and Cornwall	474	409
Dorset	107	102
Durham	116	123
Dyfed Powys	100	109
Essex	292	326
Gloucestershire	137	147
Greater Manchester	1,491	1,300
Gwent	110	110
Hampshire	425	407
Hertfordshire	239	226
Humberside	295	336
Kent	561	371
Lancashire	498	567
Leicestershire	562	447
Lincolnshire	175	125
Merseyside	583	503
Metropolitan Police	1,525	1,408
Norfolk	157	138
North Wales	148	156
North Yorkshire	143	135
Northamptonshire	337	303
Northumbria	342	308
Nottinghamshire	874	788
South Wales	298	390
South Yorkshire	335	358
Staffordshire	364	314
Suffolk	190	174
Surrey	247	215
Sussex	528	499
Thames Valley	467	[illegible]23
Warwickshire	132	142
West Mercia	159	161
West Midlands	1,043	986
West Yorkshire	652	631
Wiltshire	97	84

Return and Reintegration Directorate: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff were working in his Department's Return and Reintegration Directorate on 1 July *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [291204]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* There is no return and reintegration directorate within the United Kingdom Border Agency; nor was there one in its predecessor organisations.

The Returns and Reintegration Fund is a cross-Government fund managed from, and by, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Road Traffic Offences: Cycling

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cautions were issued in each police force area for riding a bicycle on the pavement in the last year for which figures are available. [289254]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of offenders cautioned for "Riding a pedal cycle on a footpath" in England and Wales, broken down by police force area in 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in following the table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for "riding a pedal cycle on a footpath" under section 72 of the 1835 Highway Act, in England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 2007[2,3,4]

Police force area	*Cautions*
Cumbria	8
North Wales	1
England and Wales	9

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Where a police force area is not listed in the above table, nil data are appropriate. *Source:*

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

RSPCA

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department was represented at the RSPCA Status Dogs Summit 2009. [290370]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The then Home Office Minister, my hon. Friend the Member for Gedling (Mr. Coaker), sent a pre-recorded speech that was shown at the RSPCA Status Dogs Summit 2009.

Schengen Information System

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the case for joining the Schengen Information System in 2009-10; and what account he has taken in that assessment of the UK's inability to join the upgraded Schengen Information System II until 2012. [291336]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: The UK originally committed to connecting to the first generation Schengen Information System (SIS). However, during the development stage of the UK's national system, the European Commission proposed developing an upgraded central system, known as SIS II. The latter system is capable of handling with European partners additional useful functions for law enforcement such as biometric data and would represent an improvement over the original SIS system.

We therefore took the decision that the UK should refocus its development resources to connect to SIS II. This remains the case.

The UK's efforts are still focused on developing the UK connection to the central SIS II system. However, the scheduled launch date for the central SIS II system has been put back by the European Commission from April 2010 to the fourth quarter of 2011, primarily due to technical difficulties experienced by the Commission's contractor. This means that the UK SIS II service will not be able to connect to the EU central system until December 2011 at the earliest.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Crimes of Violence

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Serious Organised Crime Agency staff have been assaulted in the course of their work since the agency was established. [291639]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Since the Serious Organised Crime Agency was established in April 2006, six officers have reported being assaulted in the course of their work. This figure includes three officers who were driven at by suspects whiles attempting to effect arrest.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Overseas Workers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Serious Organised Crime Agency officers are based in posts abroad. [291624]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As of 16 September 2009, the Serious Organised Crime Agency had 133 officers based in posts abroad.

Sexual Offenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered *(a)* sex offenders and *(b)* sex offenders convicted of offences involving minors were resident in each police authority area in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [291249]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: The number of registered sex offenders resident in each police authority area in 2007-08 is represented in the attached table as reported in the local MAPPA Annual Reports 2007-08. These are the latest data.

The Government do not hold information relating to the number of sex offenders convicted of offences involving minors resident in each police authority area.

Area	*RSOs*
National	31,392
North East	1,636
County Durham	378
Northumbria	688
Teesside	570
North West	4635
Cheshire	614
Cumbria	265
Greater Manchester	1,716
Lancashire	1,015
Merseyside	1,025
Yorkshire and Humberside	3,345
Humberside	670
North Yorkshire	392

Area	*RSOs*
South Yorkshire	857
West Yorkshire	1,426
East Midlands	2,750
Derbyshire	634
Leicestershire	541
Lincolnshire	401
Northamptonshire	383
Nottinghamshire	791
West Midlands	3,520
Staffordshire	696
Warwickshire	239
West Mercia	690
West Midlands	1895
Wales	1925
Dyfed-Powys	288
Gwent	422
North Wales	414
South Wales	801
East of England	2,908
Bedfordshire	321
Cambridgeshire	435
Essex	735
Hertfordshire	436
Norfolk	545
Suffolk	436
London	3,351
South East	4,398
Hampshire	1,155
Kent	1,030
Surrey	454
Sussex	790
Thames Valley	909
South West	2,924
Avon and Somerset	816
Devon and Cornwall	962
Dorset	446
Gloucestershire	312
Wiltshire	388

Speed Limits: Fines

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for speeding were *(a)* contested and *(b)* overturned in each (i) local authority area and (ii) police authority area in each of the last five years. [290210]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Fixed penalty notices (FPNs) cannot be contested or overturned; an FPN is the offer of an opportunity for the recipient to discharge liability to conviction by paying the prescribed amount. A person either accepts the fixed penalty or refuses and insists on the right to a court trial.

Information on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for speeding offences held by the Ministry of Justice cannot separately identify the number of prosecutions resulting from refusal of a fixed penalty notice.

Stun Guns: Children

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times a Taser gun has been used *(a)* on a child and *(b)* within 10 metres of a child in each police authority area in England in the last 12 months. [290762]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The number of times a Taser has been used on a person under 18 years of age in England and Wales in the 12 months from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 is shown in the table. It was used on 100 occasions and fired 18 times. Information is not collected on the number of times Taser is deployed within 10 metres of a child.

The total number of subjects of all ages exposed to the use of Taser over this period totals 2,083 individuals.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 186W, for similar figures for 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 36 subjects exposed to the use of Taser were reported as aged under 18, with 714 subjects aged 18 years and over. For the period January to August 2008 subjects under the age of 18 totalled 75, compared to 1,349 subjects 18 years and over.

The proportion for each time period is in the ratio of 5 per cent. subjects less than 18 years of age to 95 per cent. of subjects 18 years and over.

Taser use in England and Wales, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

		Usage details			
Force	*<18 years (total)*	*Discharges*	*Drive-stuns*	*Arced*	*Red Dot*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	2	—	—	1	1
Bedfordshire Police	3	1	—	—	1
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	1	—	—	—	1
Cheshire Constabulary	—	—	—	—	—
City of London Police	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland Police	3	—	—	1	2
Cumbria Constabulary	3	—	—	1	2
Derbyshire Constabulary	1	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	2	—	—	—	—
Dorset Police	—	—	—	—	—
Durham Constabulary	1	—	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys Police	—	—	—	—	—
Essex Police	3	1	1	—	—
Gloucestershire Constabulary	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester Police	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent Police	3	—	—	1	—
Hampshire Constabulary	1	1	—	—	—
Hertfordshire Constabulary	2	1	—	—	—
Humberside Police	2	—	—	—	—
Kent Police	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire Constabulary	2	1	—	—	—

Taser use in England and Wales, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

		Usage details			
Force	*<18 years (total)*	*Discharges*	*Drive-stuns*	*Arced*	*Red Dot*
Leicestershire Constabulary	—	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire Police	1	—	—	—	—
Merseyside Police	—	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police Service	22	7	1	—	9
Norfolk Constabulary	2	—	—	1	—
North Wales Police	7	1	1	—	3
North Yorkshire Police	2	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire Police	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria Police	21	2	—	—	13
Nottinghamshire Police	1	—	—	—	—
South Wales Police	—	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire Police	1	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire Police	4	—	—	—	4
Suffolk Constabulary	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey Police	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex Police	1	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley Police	1	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire Police	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia Constabulary	1	1	—	—	—
West Midlands Police	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire Police	6	2	—	1	3
Wiltshire Constabulary	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	100	18	3	6	56

	Usage details			
Force	*Aimed*	*Drawn*	*18+ years*	*Age not stated*
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	—	—	92	1
Bedfordshire Police	—	1	34	—
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	—	—	62	1
Cheshire Constabulary	—	—	16	1
City of London Police	—	—	1	—
Cleveland Police	—	—	30	—
Cumbria Constabulary	—	—	34	1
Derbyshire Constabulary	—	1	26	—
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	1	—	71	—
Dorset Police	—	—	20	1
Durham Constabulary	—	—	33	—
Dyfed-Powys Police	—	—	15	1
Essex Police	—	—	40	1
Gloucestershire Constabulary	—	—	11	—
Greater Manchester Police	—	—	17	1
Gwent Police	1	—	46	1
Hampshire Constabulary	—	—	11	—
Hertfordshire Constabulary	—	—	48	—
Humberside Police	—	1	95	1
Kent Police	—	—	19	1
Lancashire Constabulary	—	—	55	1
Leicestershire Constabulary	—	—	53	—
Lincolnshire Police	—	—	5	—
Merseyside Police	—	—	20	—
Metropolitan Police Service	2	3	230	8
Norfolk Constabulary	—	—	33	2
North Wales Police	1	1	45	2
North Yorkshire Police	—	1	36	—
Northamptonshire Police	—	—	25	1
Northumbria Police	1	5	308	6
Nottinghamshire Police	—	—	23	—
South Wales Police	—	—	32	2
South Yorkshire Police	—	—	13	—
Staffordshire Police	—	—	34	—
Suffolk Constabulary	—	—	21	1
Surrey Police	—	—	22	—
Sussex Police	—	—	29	—
Thames Valley Police	—	—	13	—
Warwickshire Police	—	—	1	1
West Mercia Constabulary	—	—	48	—
West Midlands Police	—	—	9	—
West Yorkshire Police	—	—	152	4
Wiltshire Constabulary	—	—	27	—
Totals	6	13	1,944	39

Note:
'Use' as defined by ACPO: Taser Operational Guidance December 2008 policy section 5.2: The term 'use of the Taser' will include any of the following actions carried out in an operational setting:
Drawing of a Taser in circumstances where any person perceives the action as a use of force.
Sparking of the Taser commonly known as "arcing".
Aiming of the Taser or placing the laser sight red dot onto a subject.
Firing of a Taser so that the barbs are discharged at a subject.
Application and Discharge of a Taser in "drive stun mode" to a subject.

Terrorism

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department holds on attacks on the UK *(a)* planned and *(b)* executed by terrorist groups in the last 10 years. [290640]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: There have been numerous disruptions to terrorist and terrorist-related activity since 1999. Since 2001 the police and security services have disrupted over a dozen attempted terrorist plots in the UK, including a planned attack which followed two weeks after the London bombings on 7 July 2005.

A list of actual and planned attacks is not available as the information is not held centrally and has not been compiled in this way. We cannot disclose the number of planned attacks due to national security constraints.

The Security Service website lists the notable convictions that have thwarted terrorist activity from 2000-07. The list attached will be placed in the House Library.

http://www.mi5.gov.uk/output/terrorist-plots-in-the-uk.html

Travel Requirements

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people arrived at UK airports without valid identity documents in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [291778]

Mr. Woolas: A total of 6,787 people arrived at UK airports without a document in the last three years.

The following table breaks this down by year:

	Passengers with no documentation
2006	2,358
2007	2,709
2008	1,720
Total	6,787

Travelling People

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has provided to *(a)* police forces and *(b)* police authorities on employment targets in respect of (i) Travellers and (ii) under-represented groups. [290035]

Mr. Hanson: As set out in the Policing Green Paper: Cm 7448 "From the Neighbourhood to National: Policing Our Communities Together," police authorities are now responsible for setting ambitious local employment targets in agreement with forces and in consultation with communities, police officers and staff. This local approach provides more local ownership of targets and will help to reflect the needs of local communities.

Guidance published by the Home Office in 2004, "The Breaking Through Action Plan - Promoting Minority Ethnic Employment in the Police Service," remains relevant as guidance to police authorities and forces on improving minority ethnic representation in the police service, and also illustrates approaches which are relevant for other under-represented groups. More recently, the position on Minority Ethnic Recruitment, Retention and Progression in the Police Service was the subject of an Assessment by the former Policing Minister, published on 20 November 2008.

Following the Policing Green Paper, the Association of Police Authorities has published a guidance document for its members - "Local employment targets for under-represented groups - Setting employment targets in local policing plans." The guidance provides advice on setting appropriate targets on race and gender representation, and on consideration of targets relating to wider local diverse communities such as the Gypsy and Traveller community.

UK Border Agency

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 71W, on immigration controls, how many UK Border Agency call centres are in operation in each location. [290904]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* UKBA operates 41 call centres, located in 39 countries. Some call centres service more than one country. Countries which are not covered by these call centres but which have a visa application centre based at the embassy or high commission operate an "in-house" telephone service.

With the exception of the UK (which has call centres in Liverpool, Sheffield and Croydon), the operation of all other call centres is outsourced as follows:

CSC Worldbridge operates three call centres, located in Brazil (servicing the Americas), Algeria (servicing North Africa and the Middle East) and Hungary (servicing Europe).

VFS Global operates 34 call centres in the following countries:

Bahrain
Oman
Bangladesh
Pakistan
China
Philippines
Ethiopia
Qatar
Ghana
Russia
India
Saudi Arabia
Indonesia
Singapore
Japan
South Africa
Kazakhstan
South Korea
Kenya
Sri Lanka
Kuwait
Syria
Malawi
Taiwan
Malaysia
Thailand
Mozambique
UAE
Namibia
Uganda
Nepal
Ukraine
Nigeria
Zimbabwe

Call Centre Services Pty Ltd operates one call centre in Australia for callers from Australia / New Zealand.

UK Border Agency: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national prisoners bailed by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal were being monitored by the UK Border Agency in August 2009; [291423]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners bailed on release from custody the UK Border Agency was monitoring in August 2009. [291424]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The chief executive of the UK Border Agency updated the Home Affairs Select Committee on this subject in July, and is due to give a further update in October. This letter will be made available in the House Library.

UK Border Agency: Return and Reintegration Programme

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the budget of the UK Border Agency for 2009-10 has been allocated to the Return and Reintegration programme. [290908]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* 0.93per cent. of the 2009-10 full year gross budget of £2,146.1 million has been allocated by the UK Border Agency to the Returns and Reintegration Fund. This is a cross-Government fund and is also supported by FCO, DFID and the Ministry of Justice.

UK Citizenship

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been stripped of UK citizenship under the provisions of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2005 as referred to in the 12-point plan announced by the then Prime Minister in August 2005, in each quarter since the Act came into effect. [291303]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Since its amendment by section 56 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, orders have been issued under section 40 of the British Nationality Act 1981 against three people, depriving them of their British citizenship. The first occurred in the third quarter of 2006, another in the final quarter of 2007 and the third individual had an order made against them in the second quarter of 2009.

Vetting

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what further steps are required for the Independent Safeguarding Authority's vetting and barring scheme to become fully operational. [289343]

Mr. Hanson: The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) is currently working towards the implementation of the next two significant phases of the vetting and barring scheme.

From 12 October 2009 the extension of the barring regime to all regulated activities will come into force. The ISA is planning for a significant increase in workload, ensuring that all relevant systems, staff and training requirements are in place. IT systems will be enhanced to support these changes.

From July 2010 applications and monitoring under the vetting and barring scheme will commence. The ISA is working closely with key partners and suppliers to ensure the new IT system and associated interfaces are in place and fully tested for July 2010.

Steps are also being taken to ensure an effective interface with the equivalent Scottish scheme.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which posts will require registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority under the vetting and barring scheme. [289344]

Mr. Hanson: Under the vetting and barring scheme individuals apply to become registered with the scheme under section 24 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Those individuals seeking to work in either regulated or controlled activities with children or vulnerable adults, as specified under the Act, will need to apply to be registered, as the scheme is phased in.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of *(a)* standard checks and *(b)* enhanced checks by the Criminal Records Bureau took longer than (i) 10 days, (ii) four weeks and (iii) eight weeks to complete in each year since 1997. [290333]

Alan Johnson: Information is not held in the format requested. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent of enhanced disclosures within 28 days.

The following table illustrates the CRB's performance against the PSS since inception in 2002.

Published service standards

	Standard		*Enhanced*	
Financial year	*Target*	*Performance (percentage)*	*Target*	*Performance (percentage)*
2002-03	95 per cent. in 1 week	19.4	90 per cent. in 3 weeks	52.4
2003-04	93 per cent. in 14 days	93	90 per cent. in 28 days	92.5
2004-05	93 per cent. in 14 days	97.6	90 per cent. in 28 days	89.9
2005-06	93 per cent. in 14 days	99.6	90 per cent. in 28 days	84.4
2006-07	90 per cent. in 14 days	98.8	90 per cent. in 28 days	84.9
2007-08	90 per cent. in 10 days	99.7	90 per cent. in 28 days	93.6
2008-09	90 per cent. in 10 days	99.1	90 per cent. in 28 days	88.6

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest time taken to respond to an application for an *(a)* standard and *(b)* enhanced check by the Criminal Records Bureau was in each year since 1997. [290363]

Alan Johnson: The disclosure process comprises broadly several stages involving the applicant, the registered body (RB) (the organisation that handles the application on behalf of an employer), the CRB and the police. Each stage is reliant on the accuracy of the data provided by the applicant and the subsequent verification of these data by the RB from the outset.

A number of factors can cause delays, including the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application; the accurate completion of the application form; the clarity of the information provided; the existence of conviction or non-conviction information and the operational effectiveness of the disclosure units of the police forces involved in the enhanced disclosure process following recent high volumes of applications.

The majority of applications spend between three and four days at the CRB and analysis undertaken by the bureau has shown that the majority of delays that occur do so before the CRB receives an application and after it has been sent to the police.

The CRB has set up an improvement plan with its delivery partners, including the police forces, to address the problems associated with delays. This is aimed at maintaining a balanced output of applications on the system whilst also reducing the number of aged cases. This work has started to show an improvement in turnaround times but the CRB will continue to monitor forces performance in line with its own performance.

Where applications are returned to customers to acquire further information, reminders are issued but some customers can fail to provide this information or withdraw their application from the bureau's systems where they no longer require their disclosure.

The following table provides details of the longest time taken for the completion of a CRB standard and enhanced disclosure in each year since the inception of the bureau. The figures have been calculated based on the date the disclosure was issued in each year, counting back from the date of completion

It is likely that these applications will have been referred back to the applicant/RB; the delays in issue are not necessarily representative of the bureau's performance.

Financial year	*Longest time taken in days-enhanced disclosure*	*Longest time taken in days-standard disclosure*
2002-03	406	345
2003-04	684	692
2004-05	954	803
2005-06	1189	1198
2006-07	1414	1203
2007-08	1680	1512
2008-09	1606	864
2009-10	1434	393

Vetting: Voluntary Work

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with charities on the possible effects of the vetting and barring scheme on trends in the level of volunteering; and if he will make a statement. [291814]

Mr. Hanson: Implementation of the vetting and barring Scheme includes a programme of consultation with the voluntary sector through a specific consultation group and a wide range of stakeholder events. The free application for unpaid volunteers has been welcomed along with the reduction in bureaucracy arising from the continuous monitoring element of the scheme. Consultation has not indicated that the scheme is likely to damage levels of volunteering. A number of voluntary sector organisations including Children England, Volunteering England and the Children's Society have indicated that they believe the scheme to be an appropriate response to safeguarding concerns that should not impact adversely on volunteer numbers.

Young Offenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of incidents of *(a)* wounding, *(b)* assault without injury, *(c)* assault with minor injury and *(d)* robbery recorded in the British crime survey were identified by the victim as being carried out by offenders of school age and under, in each of the last 10 years. [289593]

Alan Johnson: The following table shows the percentage of offenders who were perceived to be of school age and under by victims of violent incidents from the British crime survey (BCS) for surveys between 1999 and 2008-09.

Offender characteristics in BCS violent incidents in England and Wales—British crime survey

Percentage

		Violent offences				
Age of offender(s)[1,2]	*All violence*[3]	*Wounding*	*Assault with minor injury*[4]	*Assault with no injury*[5]	*Common assault*[6]	*Robbery*
2008-09						
School age and under[7]	8	3	7	10	—	10
Unweighted base[8]	1,434	343	358	560	—	193
2007/08						
School age and under	13	7	8	18	—	15
Unweighted base[8]	1,468	357	343	579	—	189
2006-07						
School age and under	12	9	12	15	—	6
Unweighted base[8]	1,656	413	393	639	—	211
2005-06						
School age and under	14	13	—	—	15	12
Unweighted base[8]	1,548	376	—	—	914	208
2004-05						
School age and under	12	9	—	—	14	8
Unweighted base[8]	1,521	394	—	—	877	176

Offender characteristics in BCS violent incidents in England and Wales—British crime survey

Percentage

			Violent offences			
Age of offender(s)[1,2]	*All violence*[3]	*Wounding*	*Assault with minor injury*[4]	*Assault with no injury*[4]	*Common assault*[4]	*Robbery*
2003-04						
Child of school age	12	12	—	—	12	7
Unweighted base[6]	1,448	355	—	—	877	151
2002-03						
Child of school age	10	4	—	—	12	12
Unweighted base[6]	1,447	351	—	—	853	185
2001-02						
Child of school age	10	2	—	—	12	12
Unweighted base[6]	1,325	306	—	—	805	163
1999						
Child of school age	8	12	—	—	7	8
Unweighted base[6]	1,053	226	—	—	701	104

[1] Detailed questions about offender(s) are only asked of victims who experienced three or less offences in the last year to minimise respondent burden. Figures here are based on incidents in which the victim could say something about the offender(s).

[2] More than one offender could be involved.

[3] 'All violence' includes wounding, robbery, assault with minor injury and assault with no injury.

[4] Prior to 2005-06 assault with minor injury and assault with no injury were included within the broader category of common assault.

[5] Separate estimates for children below school age are not available prior to 2004-05 BCS.

[6] Unweighted base is the number of victims who were able to say something about offender.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 October 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Eco-Towns

Robert Neill: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church Commissioners have made an assessment of the merits of allowing their land to be used for eco-town developments. [289357]

Sir Stuart Bell: With the assistance of their professional advisers, the Church Commissioners keep their property holdings under constant review to ensure that development potential is identified, thoroughly assessed and taken forward in the most appropriate way.

When the Government originally announced the eco-town idea, the Commissioners liaised with their advisers to determine whether any potential sites already identified in their portfolio might meet the eco-town criteria or whether any other land might be suitable to accommodate an eco-town. No suitable opportunities emerged and therefore this initiative was not taken forward in relation to the Commissioners' landholdings.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships have been undertaken by *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each (i) region and (ii) industrial sector; and how many were completed in each case. [290221]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts by Government Office Region and Gender in 2007-08, the latest year for which full-year figures are available. Table 2 shows the number of apprenticeship achievements by Government Office Region and Gender in 2007-08. This gives the total number of achievements in 2007-08, regardless of the academic year the apprenticeship started.

Tables 3 and 4 show the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements by Government Office Region and Sector Subject Area in 2007-08. Information is not available by 'industrial sector'.

Table 1: Number of apprenticeship starts by Government Office region and gender, 2007-08

Region	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
North East	8,600	8,000	16,700
North West	18,200	17,200	35,500
Yorkshire and the Humber	16,200	13,100	29,300
East Midlands	10,800	10,900	21,700
West Midlands	11,600	13,800	25,400
East of England	10,800	10,200	21,000
London	7,200	7,300	14,500
South East	18,400	13,800	32,200
South West	14,600	10,700	25,300
Other	1,800	1,500	3,200
Total	118,200	106,600	224,800

Table 2: Number of apprenticeship achievements by Government Office region and gender, 2007-08

Region	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
North East	4,300	3,300	7,600
North West	9,700	9,300	19,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	9,000	6,300	15,400
East Midlands	5,400	5,300	10,700
West Midlands	6,900	6,700	13,600
East of England	5,400	4,600	10,000
London	3,100	3,100	6,200
South East	9,700	6,600	16,300
South West	7,500	5,000	12,500
Other	700	500	1,300
Total	61,700	50,800	112,600

Notes:
1. Region is based on home postcode of the learner.
2. Where the postcode is outside of England, or not known, learners are shown in the 'Other' category.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and may therefore not sum to the totals.

Source:
Work-based Learning Individualised Learning Record

Table 3: Number of apprenticeship starts by sector subject area and gender, 2007-08

Sector Subject Area	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	2,200	2,300	4,500
Arts, Media and Publishing	100	[1]—	100
Business, Administration and Law	14,700	36,100	50,700
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	27,300	500	27,800
Education and Training	[1]—	300	300
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	41,800	1,300	43,100
Health, Public Services and Care	3,900	27,200	31,100
Information and Communication Technology	5,900	2,100	8,000
Languages, Literature and Culture	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	3,400	2,800	6,300

Table 3: Number of apprenticeship starts by sector subject area and gender, 2007-08

Sector Subject Area	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Preparation for Life and Work	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	16,700	32,600	49,300
Science and Mathematics	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Unknown	2,200	1,300	3,500
Total	118,200	106,600	224,800

Table 4: Number of apprenticeship achievements by sector subject area and gender, 2007-08

Sector Subject Area	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	1,200	1,300	2,500
Arts, Media and Publishing	100	[1]—	200
Business, Administration and Law	6,300	17,200	23,600
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	17,600	200	17,800
Education and Training	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	20,200	500	20,800
Health, Public Services and Care	1,800	12,000	13,800
Information and Communication Technology	4,400	1,200	5,500
Languages, Literature and Culture	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	2,100	1,500	3,600
Preparation for Life and Work	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	7,800	16,700	24,400
Science and Mathematics	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Unknown	200	200	400
Total	61,700	50,800	112,600

[1] Indicates a value of less than 50.

Note:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred and may therefore not sum to the totals.

Source:

Work-based Learning Individualised Learning Record

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Government-funded apprenticeship places were available to young people in *(a)* England and *(b)* North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [291285]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Table 1 shows the number of Learning and Skills Council funded apprenticeship starts by learners aged under 19 in North East Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency and England from 2003-04 to 2007-08, the latest year for which full-year figures are available.

Table 1: Number of apprenticeship starts for learners aged under 19, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency	230	210	180	230	240
England	108,300	113,500	99,500	105,600	107,600

Notes:

1. Parliamentary constituency is based on home postcode of the learner.
2. The figures provided for England includes learners undertaking apprenticeships in England. It includes those resident in England, a small number of learners which are resident outside of England e.g. in Scotland or Wales, and those where their postcode is not known.
3. Figures for parliamentary constituency have been rounded to the nearest ten and figures for England have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
4. Age Source: Work-based Learning Individualised Learner Record (WBL ILR) is calculated based on age at start of programme.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08, of which 107,600 were by young people (aged under 19). Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill now before Parliament will ensure that an apprenticeship place is available for all suitably qualified young people by 2013.

Apprentices: Financial Institutions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeships in financial institutions in the City of London there are. [290272]

Kevin Brennan: We do not hold data centrally that can be used to accurately estimate the total number of apprentices within financial institutions in the City of London.

The London Apprenticeships Taskforce is working to expand apprenticeships in all sectors in London, including financial services. Activity to develop apprenticeships in this sector is being supported by the National Skills Academy for Financial Services. Eskills (the sector skills council for business and information technology) is also developing an IT London Action Plan, which aims to expand apprenticeships in London, including in the financial services sector.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many individuals with debts of less than £15,000 filed for bankruptcy in each of the 12 months from April 2008. [289485]

Ian Lucas: The number of individuals with debts of less than £15,000 who filed for bankruptcy in each of the 12 months from April 2008 are as follows:

	Number
April 2008	902
May 2008	768

	Number
June 2008	873
July 2008	1,033
August 2008	737
September 2008	867
October 2008	944
November 2008	888
December 20087	41
January 2009	845
February 2009	903
March 2009	977
Total	10,478

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* Stockport of individuals in each age group in each year since 1997. [291309]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The available information on the number of bankruptcies in England, Greater Manchester and Stockport, by age group, can be seen in the following tables. Information prior to 2000 is not available on this basis.

Bankrupts by age, England

Age group[1]

	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Unknown
2000	829	5,510	6,017	3,948	1,565	378	1,933
2001	1,001	5,956	5,691	4,182	1,801	396	2,227
2002	1,191	6,003	6,834	4,175	2,019	559	2,038
2003	1,655	6,915	7,882	4,888	2,491	679	2,117
2004	2,530	8,937	9,949	5,957	3,240	922	2,678
2005	3,338	11,369	13,058	8,103	4,500	1,418	3,584
2006	3,810	14,844	17,751	11,137	6,368	2,152	4,090
2007	2,938	14,797	18,371	12,023	6,727	2,400	4,240
2008	2,769	15,121	19,388	13,260	6,892	2,455	4,256

Bankrupts by age, Greater Manchester

Age group[1]

	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Unknown
2000	20	196	237	163	62	17	72
2001	31	247	273	187	76	13	125
2002	40	225	289	167	85	22	135
2003	44	255	313	195	91	26	118
2004	74	326	364	266	134	45	87
2005	96	378	508	337	206	66	167
2006	131	604	751	491	295	122	154
2007	121	599	830	578	334	128	147
2008	106	679	887	661	366	118	143

Bankrupts by age, Stockport

Age group[1]

	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Unknown
2000	1	12	30	24	4	3	9
2001	0	23	29	12	9	0	13
2002	2	11	21	17	10	1	12
2003	5	13	40	25	14	4	7
2004	3	30	31	38	12	6	10
2005	9	40	50	37	17	8	7
2006	13	66	65	41	27	9	8
2007	13	50	77	74	18	13	13
2008	6	62	95	67	40	7	9

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (increasing from 88 per cent. of cases in 2000 to 97 per cent. in 2008).

Banks: Loans

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many banks *(a)* received information on and *(b)* are operating the Working Capital Guarantee Scheme; how much capital has been loaned to businesses under the scheme to date; and how many businesses have received financial assistance under the scheme. [275879]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The Department sent a mini prospectus to the British Banking Association who circulated it to its members. The Working Capital Scheme is not directly available to businesses; however, £2 billion of guarantees have been provided to banks under the scheme to free up regulatory capital for new lending to UK companies. As a result of action by the Government and the regulatory authorities leading to improvements in the capital position of the UK banking system since the introduction of the WCS, the Government have been able to allocate resource provision for the WCS to other measures to support businesses, including as announced at the Budget 2009 a trade credit insurance 'top-up' scheme and a possible new letters of credit scheme in the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

Banks: Meetings

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons no minutes were taken of the meetings between his Department's officials and Ministers which took place on 13, 16, 20 and 31 October and 11 December 2008 at which the proposed merger between Lloyds TSB and HSBOS was discussed; and what his Department's policy is on the minuting of meetings between *(a)* his Department's officials and Ministers and *(b)* his Department's Ministers or officials and private or public companies. [291361]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The purpose of these meetings was to enable the relevant Ministers and officials to consider the substantive issues raised by this case and to ensure the Secretary of State was in a position to take properly informed final decisions in accordance with his statutory duties under the Enterprise Act 2002. No summary of outcomes from the meetings was required to ensure action was taken forward. Ministers had the appropriate material and relevant officials at the meetings. The conclusions reached are reflected either in the subsequent actions taken, advice to Ministers about the next steps, or are otherwise set out in public statements such as the final decision document which seeks to provide a clear summary of the reasons behind the decision. The Department does not have a specific policy on taking minutes of meetings though there is a general requirement to keep an appropriate record of all departmental business.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans his Department has to increase the availability of cable broadband in the rural areas of *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [291697]

Mr. Timms: The cable broadband network in the UK is owned and provided by Virgin Media. It is a commercial decision for them whether they should extend this network. However, the Government are working to implement the key broadband recommendations made in the Digital Britain Report to improve the UK's communications infrastructure, namely around the universal service commitment to broadband and Next Generation broadband.

The Universal Service Commitment will ensure the possibility of universal broadband access to virtually all UK homes and businesses at a speed of at least 2Mbps by 2012. The Network Design and Procurement Group will be responsible for the procurement and delivery of the universal service commitment, and will be established by the autumn. Those currently unable to receive a service will be given priority.

The Government are also working to set up the Next Generation Fund to help pay for upgrading the UK telecoms infrastructure, which will help to incentivise the delivery of next generation broadband to the home or business premises in the final third of the UK that the market will not deliver to.

Business Link

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses have requested and been refused a Business Link health check. [291256]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The RDAs have no record of any business that has requested a Business Link health check having had their request refused for the whole period since such health checks began.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Business Link employees attended the Beijing Olympics in July 2008 in an official capacity. [291259]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* No Business Link employee who was directly employed in the provision of the Business Link service, by RDAs and their Business Link Providers, travelled to Beijing to attend the Beijing Olympics in July 2008 in their capacity as a Business Link employee.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Business Link employees carry out business health checks. [291260]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The number of Business Link employees who carry out health checks as part of their role is shown in the following table.

Name of RDA	*Number of Business Link employees who currently carry out business health checks*
AWM	63
EEDA	80
EM DA	94
LDA	49
NWDA	134
ONE	93
SEEDA	162
SWRDA	86
YF	133

Business Links: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget for Business Links is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [285068]

Mr. McFadden: For the period 2007-08, an estimate of the budget for Business Link allocated by the regional development agencies was £190 million. No forward budget is agreed with the RDAs for this activity. Business Link services are funded from the Government's single-pot to the regional development agencies to deliver agreed core services to businesses in each region. The exact budget for those contracted services is left for each RDA to determine based on what is appropriate for its region.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much *(a)* each regional development agency and *(b)* his Department allocated to Business Link in each of the last five years. [289830]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2005, responsibility for managing Business Link face-to-face services was transferred to the RDAs. The previous budget used to deliver Business Link services was added to the Department's contribution towards the RDA "Single-Pot". This allows the regions to draw down as much or as little funding as they see fit to deliver the service in their areas.

Over the last five years, the RDAs have allocated the following budgets to their Business Link providers:

BL funding over period 2005-10

					£ million
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
NWRDA	17.8	17.8	14.1	16.5	22.1
ONENE	14.1	14.1	12.9	12.9	15.8
AWM	27.2	24.8	22.8	35.2	34.2
EMDA	20.3	14.4	13.0	13.7	18.6
EEDA	15.7	15.5	15.8	16.0	16.2
Y&H	£13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	17.8
LDA	£23.7	23.8	19.4	26.7	26.6
SWRDA	24.6	24.6	19.6	19.9	25.8
SEEDA	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	30.1

Business Links: Manpower

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many business advisers have been employed by Business Link in each of the last 36 months. [289829]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the context of the question posed, 'business advisers' have been defined as including face-to-face business (link) advisers delivering services under the Business Link brand; that may include functional/sector specialists but not those operating under other service brands e.g. MAS. Internal/telephone based support or partnership staff have not been included.

From 1 April, skills brokerage for Train to Gain was integrated with the Business Link service, accounting for the significant increase in Business Link adviser numbers this year.

Comprehensive national data can only be provided from April 2008 by which time all RDAs had re-contracted to the current network of Business Link providers. Some of the regional data for prior months was held by former Business Link providers and it would be disproportionate cost to collect this information.

Month	*Number of Business Link advisers*
April 2008	747
May 2008	748
June 2008	744
July 2008	776
August 2008	804
September 2008	829
October 2008	830
November 2008	835
December 2008	841
January 2009	854
February 2009	855
March 2009	854
April 2009	1021
May 2009	1030
June 2009	1038
July 2009	1051
August 2009	1160
September 2009	1166

Business: Government Assistance

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much lending has been guaranteed under the Working Ca[illegible]me.

Ms Rosie Winterton: £2 billion of guarantees have been provided to banks under the Working Capital Scheme to free up regulatory capital for new lending to UK companies. As a result of action by the Government and the regulatory authorities, leading to improvements in the capital position of the UK banking system since the introduction of the WCS, the Government have been able to allocate resource provision for the WCS to other measures to support businesses, including as announced at the Budget 2009 a trade credit insurance top up scheme and a possible new letters of credit scheme in the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses in England have received assistance from his Department in the last 12 months. [273299]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Business Link is the Department's main channel of support businesses of all sizes. In the 12 months to end June 2009, advisers helped over 930,800 businesses, with over 76,000 receiving intensive one-to-one support. The businesslink.gov.uk website attracted around 11.2 million visitors in the same period.

Examples of other specific assistance received by small and medium sized enterprises from BIS and its predecessors include:

In 2008/09, UK Trade and Investment activities assisted 20,700 individual companies to exploit opportunities in overseas markets.

The Enterprise Finance Guarantee, which up to 21 August 2009 has offered loans totalling over £470 million to over 4,600 businesses.

The Technology Strategy Board has supported various collaborative R&D projects and knowledge transfer activities:

Nearly 1,000 SMEs have received grants for collaborative R&D projects worth over £25 million in the 12 month to June 2009.

Over 760 SMEs have received support for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships totalling over £18 million in the 12 months to July 2009.

In addition 57,000 are members of our Knowledge Transfer Networks of which a proportion are SMEs.

Skill support to SMEs through Train to Gain. Provisional information for 2008/09 shows that within the academic year 100,000 SMEs have had an employee start a Train to Gain course.

The annual reports for BERR and DIUS describe the other forms of business support provided more fully in 2008/09.

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The Technology Strategy Board has supported various collaborative R&D projects.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department and its predecessors allocated for the development of small businesses in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280099]

Ian Lucas: East of England Development Agency (EEDA) funds a range of services to support businesses in the East of England.

Since 2007 EEDA has invested over £30 million annually on a range of services to support businesses from all sectors across the region. This includes the regional

Business Link service, specific business support schemes and business finance grants for eligible businesses.

The following information identifies funding for these services.

Note:

Not all of these schemes were in place 10 years ago, therefore funding will be provided as far back as possible. EEDA was not created until 1999, and has only been operating significant business support schemes since 2007.

Business Support Programmes

From 1 April 2007 EEDA has provided £32 million of funding to Business Link East to deliver the service across the region. From 2008/09 Business Link has interacted with 108,391 businesses in the East of England of which 1,416 have been in mid Bedfordshire. Since October 2008 around 8,000 free 'health checks' have been delivered in the region.

For the period of 2005-08 EEDA has funded the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) East to the value of £3.4 million and has awarded a further £3.3 million between 2008-11. Bedfordshire businesses, during the period November 2005-October 2008, received £163,680 worth of business support. 104 companies received a basic one-day review through the MAS-east programme. Of these, nineteen companies also received a full implementation programme resulting in 32 projects which generated gross value added of £613,852.00.

EEDA's Take ITon campaign assists businesses to improve use of IT, focused on helping SMEs save cost through IT. Since December 2007 the regional programme has totalled 347 grants, investing £1,105,508.01 to leverage a total of £3,227,784.06. Mid Bedfordshire Take ITon has funded a total of 11 grants, investing £32,440 and leveraging in a total of £99,166.50.

£2.2 million has funded a regional response to redundancy programme which has supported companies across the region and in Mid Bedfordshire.

Business Finance Schemes:

EEDA has operated a number of business finance schemes since 2003 such as Grant for Research and Development, Proof of Concept funds, Grants for Business Investment. The amounts funded to date for the former county of Bedfordshire are:

	£
Grant for Research and Development	18,177,981
Proof of Concept funds	346,217

For the former county of Bedfordshire funding totalled £20,845,345 which has been matched against further investment of £134,067,981.

In May 2009 EEDA launched an Understanding Finance for Business Programme which provides coaching and mentoring to SMEs.

EEDA launched a £5 million Regional Loan Fund in May 2009, aimed at supporting innovative SMEs in early growth prior to attracting venture capital funding.

EEDA is also promoting Olympic opportunities to businesses through CompeteFor, a web based portal. So far 9612 businesses have registered in the region and of those 573 are in Bedfordshire.

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department and its predecessors allocated to the development of information technology businesses in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [280100]

Ian Lucas: East of England Development Agency funds a range of services to support businesses from all sectors across the region. This includes the regional Business Link service, specific business support schemes and business finance grants for eligible businesses.

Key examples of funding and support to IT businesses in the region, where possible, broken down by IT sector and location include:

> Since December 2007 £76,561 has been provided through the TakeITon campaign for businesses to receive support for enhanced ICT. Of this, £9,980 in Bedfordshire and £1,980 in mid-Beds.
>
> Since January 2001 EEDA has provided £4,305,127 in Business finance grants in the East of England and of this, £508,050 in Bedfordshire.[1]

[1] Some of the above are grants to businesses under either the Grants for Business Investment (GBI) or Grant for Research and Development (GRaD) programmes. GBI, previously known as Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE), transferred to EEDA from the Small Business Service (SBS) in April 2002. GRaD transferred to EEDA from SBS in April 2005.

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing to UK companies which are developing low-carbon goods and services. [289850]

Mr. McFadden: In July the Government published the Low Carbon Industrial Strategy which outlined the first investments from the £405 million for low carbon industries and advanced green manufacturing announced at Budget 2009. The strategy announced up to £60 million to capitalise on Britain's wave and tidal sector strengths, up to £15 million capital investment in order to establish a Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, up to £10 million for the accelerated deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, a £4 million expansion of the Manufacturing Advisory Service, up to £6 million to construct low carbon affordable homes and up to £120 million to support the development of a British based offshore wind industry. Copies of the strategy are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses have received money from the Capital for Enterprise Scheme; and how much money has been provided in total under the scheme to date. [291223]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: The Capital for Enterprise Fund (CFEF) provides a total commitment of £75 million, made up of £50 million in public funds and agreement in principle to an additional £25 million from the main banks (Lloyds, Barclays, HSBC and RBS).

As from 10 September 2009, CFEF has made 26 offers totalling almost £40 million to 26 businesses. Two of these deals have completed so far with a total value of £3 million.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the criteria are for small and medium-sized enterprises to receive funding from the Capital for Enterprise Fund (CEF); when businesses were first able to apply for funding from the CEF; when the CEF made its first payment, what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average monetary value of payments from the CEF has been to date; how many businesses have received funding from the CEF; what steps his Department has taken to promote the CEF to small and medium-sized businesses; and what target time has been established for the CEF to determine applications. [291810]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Capital for Enterprise Fund (CfEF) makes investments of between £200,000 and £2 million of equity and mezzanine finance. The investment is aimed at releasing and sustaining the growth potential of businesses that are over-geared, under-capitalised or both. To apply, all applicants must have their principal place of business within the UK or be able to demonstrate why an investment will be of tangible benefit to the UK. Additionally, all applications must meet the EU definition of an SME.

CfEF was announced as part of the Real Help Now programme on 14 January and businesses were able to register their applications for the fund immediately through a dedicated registration service. Following an appointment process the contracted Fund Managers were able to start processing these in March.

As at 22 September five businesses had received investment from the CfEF totalling £6.15 million at an average of £ 1.23 million per deal. The first investment was completed on 31 July.

The Department has marketed the CfEF to businesses as part of the wider programme of support through Real Help, in particular through Business Link and using national and regional promotional activity which includes sources of communications used by the main business representative bodies to their members. The CfEF Fund Managers have also produced a promotional flyer which is distributed to businesses through their network of professional bodies.

As a commercial fund the investment process for CfEF involves a period of due diligence and negotiation, which involves the fund manager and potential investee company and often existing investors and lenders to the business. The length of time required to complete this can vary significantly in each case and there is no formal target time between an application and investment, although the managers are working to progress investments as quickly as possible.

Business: Regulation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate his Department has made of the cost to UK businesses of the administrative burden of regulation. [290233]

Ian Lucas: In May 2005, the administrative cost of regulations was measured using the internationally recognised Standard Cost Model. The measurement exercise included 19 Government Departments, regulators and agencies. The burden was estimated at £13.2 billion annually. The Government have committed to reduce administrative burdens associated with complying with regulations by 25 per cent. net by May 2010. As at December 2008, an estimated £1.9 billion net annual savings had been delivered.

Calman Commission

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received representations from *(a)* the CBI, *(b)* British Chambers of Commerce and *(c)* other business organisations on the potential effects of the implementation of the Calman Commission proposals on business costs. [289812]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not received any representations from the CBI, the British Chambers of Commerce or any other business organisations on the potential effects of the implementation of the Calman Commission proposals on business costs.

Companies House

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many customers of Companies House *(a)* were contacted for the purposes of and *(b)* responded to its customer satisfaction survey in each of the last four years. [289810]

Ian Lucas: The information is as follows:

(a) Prior to January 2008 Companies House issued paper customer surveys covering Companies House Direct, E-Filing, the Contact Centre and also a general survey (which was also available on the Companies House website). Approximately 25,000 were sent each year.

Since January 2008 the customer surveys have been completely electronic and the paper survey is no longer issued. Approximately 60,000 were sent out each year to our WebFiling, Software Filing, Companies House Direct and WebCHeck customers. A customer survey is also available to complete on our website and the Contact Centre survey is included as a link on every e-mail sent out by the Contact Centre.

(b) The number of Companies House customer survey responses are as follows. Unfortunately due to software changes there are no statistics available for the year 2005-06.

	Responses
2006-07	8,798
2007-08	7,775
2008-09	9,975

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills at what times of the day the Companies House WebCHeck website is available. [289941]

Ian Lucas: The Companies House WebCHeck service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Companies House: Correspondence

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many letters from hon. Members the Chief Executive of Companies House received in each of the last four years. [289815]

Ian Lucas: The number of letters received by the chief executive of Companies House from hon. Members in each of the last four years is as follows:

2005: 38 letters

2006: 55 letters

2007: 54 letters

2008: 60 letters.

Companies House: Manpower

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many employees of Companies House were absent from work for *(a)* no, *(b)* one to five, *(c)* six to 10, *(d)* 11 to 15 and *(e)* more than 15 days in each of the last four years. [289923]

Ian Lucas: The total absence figures of employees of Companies House from work from 2006 to 2008 are listed as follows and have been calculated by adding individual employees absence for each year. The figures for 2005 are not available due to a systems problem.

	Number of employees		
Number of days	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
(a) 0	405	140	246
(b) 1-5	481	466	447
(c) 6-10	139	191	189
(d) 11-15	54	70	72
(e) 16+	155	190	180

Construction

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of levels of productivity in the engineering construction sector. [289930]

Ian Lucas: Mark Gibson, now chief executive of the Whitehall and Business Group is currently leading a review of productivity and skills in the engineering construction sector.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the monetary value of engineering construction contracts lost to UK companies as a result of *(a)* low productivity levels and *(b)* industrial action in the last five years. [289950]

Ian Lucas: Information relating to the securing of individual contracts in a particular sector, including engineering construction, is not collected by Government. The award of engineering construction contracts is a business matter for the parties concerned, and the various award criteria are commercial issues for the private sector clients involved.

Construction Clearing House: Apprentices

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, Official Report, column 191W, on the Construction Clearing House, what steps the Construction Clearing House has taken to ensure that construction apprenticeship places which are at risk of redundancy are not lost; and if he will make a statement; [289778]

(2) how many times the Construction Clearing House Committee has met since its establishment; and who the members are of that committee. [289888]

Kevin Brennan: The service operated by Construction Skills provides a helpline offering advice and support for employers, apprentices and parents to help redundant apprentices find alternative employment and help support those whose job is at risk. Construction Skills also actively seek new employers for displaced apprentices to complete their Apprenticeship framework. This service is now available to all training providers delivering Apprenticeships in construction. Additional funding has recently been made available to Construction Skills to provide employers with a £1,000 grant to help with the costs of employing a displaced apprentice. These arrangements are in addition to the contractual requirement on all training providers to help apprentices find alternative employment if they lose their job. The National Apprenticeships Service (NAS) introduced new flexibilities earlier in the year to help ensure apprentices can continue in training to complete their Apprenticeship.

The clearing house arrangements are not directly overseen by a committee; they are managed as part of the operational responsibilities of Construction Skills and NAS.

Construction Task Force

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 191W, on Construction Task Force, (1) if he will list the membership of the Construction Task Force, and on how many occasions the Construction Task Force has met since its inception; [290219]

(2) what recent steps the Construction Task Force has taken to ensure the security of apprenticeship places in the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [290220]

Kevin Brennan: The Construction Apprenticeships Task Force membership comprised:

Construction apprenticeships task force

Member	
Simon Waugh	National Apprenticeship Service
James Wates	Wates Group
Alan Ritchie	Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians
John Thompson	Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians
Tom Wilson	Trade Union Congress
Bob Blackman	Unite
Tom Kelly	GMB Union
Frank Horan	College of North West London
Ian Billyard	Leeds College of Building
Susan Forsyth	Chichester College
Keith Donnelly	Carillion Plc
Geoff Gruan	Greenwood services
George Fraser	ROK Group
Nicholas Fowler	Denne Construction
Geoff Lister	Federation of Master Builders
Mark Farrar	Construction Skills, Sector Skills Council

Representatives from the Department, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Homes and Communities Agency also attended by invitation. The Task Force met four times between November 2008 and April 2009. The group considered the impact of the economic downturn and its effect on the Construction labour market and agreed actions on a number of issues affecting Apprenticeships in the industry. Key recommendations were on public sector procurement and support for displaced construction apprentices. On procurement we continue to work across Government and in the industry to implement the specific construction commitment set out in the pre-Budget report, 2008 and the task force provided structured input into this process. Progress includes commitments to create new apprenticeship places through the Department of Children's Schools and Families' Building Schools for the Future programme, from the Olympic Delivery Authority on the Olympic Park and Village site, and through the Homes and Communities Agency's £5 billion annual investment budget. For displaced apprentices the Construction Matching Service has sought new jobs for apprentices, and offered advice and support for employers, apprentices and parents through a national helpline. The Task Force also looked at the role of trade unions and medium-to-long term strategies for expanding apprenticeships in the sector, these wider issues will be taken forward through the Cross-Industry Construction Apprenticeship Task Force which advises Government on Apprenticeship issues affecting the sector.

Construction: Apprentices

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and *(b)* representatives of the engineering construction industry on increasing the number of young people pursuing careers in that sector. [289924]

Ian Lucas: Like other engineering-related sectors, the engineering construction industry offers attractive career opportunities, but shares challenges in attracting employees for the future. In this regard, there are ongoing discussions at ministerial, and official levels on issues that directly impact on engineering construction. A programme of actions is being taken forward by Government, in conjunction with the sector skills councils and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board, to address these matters. The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment, and the Diploma in Engineering, were launched in September 2008, with the aim of introducing young people to the world of working in these industries. This Government are also committed to a significant growth in apprenticeships. That is why funding for apprentices has been increased by almost a quarter since 2007/08 to over £1 billion in 2009/10.

Construction: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of trends in industrial action in relation to the engineering construction sector. [289921]

Ian Lucas: The Department has not undertaken an assessment of trends in industrial action in the engineering construction sector.

Construction: Reviews

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he has set for completion of his Department's review of productivity and skills in the engineering construction sector. [289922]

Ian Lucas: The review is expected to be completed around autumn this year.

Corus: Loans

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the £5 million loan to Corus announced on 25 June 2009 has been *(a)* partially or *(b)* fully drawn down by Corus; and whether any assurances relating to jobs in the UK have been received in return. [289832]

Mr. McFadden: On 25 June, my noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills offered a £5 million training package to Corus. The offer was also discussed when the Prime Minister met with Kirby Adams, Chief Executive Officer of Corus on 16 July.

At present officials in BIS and the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are working with Corus to take forward the offer of assistance which will contribute to training the workforce, retain capacity in the UK and help the company through the downturn and to recover more strongly as economic conditions improve.

The training package will benefit Corus operations in the regions covered by Yorkshire Forward and ONE North East RDAs and will support apprenticeship and graduate training programmes and a range of training packages focused on Corus' shop floor workers.

Corus has provided assurances relating to the future of 3,000 employees and 1,000 contractors in the Yorkshire and Humber region and in excess of 1,200 employees and 500 contractors within the Tees Valley up to the end of 2010. It is planned that a significant proportion of the training support funding will be drawn down before the end of December 2009.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289515]

Mr. McFadden: The former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) spent £417,906 on press advertising via the Central Office of Information in 2008-09 as follows:

	£
Agency Workers Campaign 2008-09	341,212
Employing People 2008-09	37,140
National Minimum Wage 2008-09	30,260
Dispute Resolution 2008-09	5,977

	£
Trawlermen Compensation Scheme 2008-09	3,317
Total	417,906

In addition central financial records indicate that BERR spent £90,235 in 2008-09 through an advertising agency on advertising for external recruitment.

The former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) spent £208,137 on press advertising via the Central Office of Information in 2008-09 as below:

	£
Higher Education Student Finance campaign 2008-09	58,560
Science Innovation Press Campaign 2008-09	149,577
Total	208,137

A breakdown of expenditure on newspaper advertising by title could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on advertising arising from its re-branding following machinery of Government changes in June 2009. [290081]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has not done any advertising of the Department due to machinery of government changes.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in which buildings in central London each of his Department's units is located. [290264]

Ian Lucas: This Department has directorates based in the following buildings in central London:

1 Victoria Street, London SW1H OET

Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SW

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290563]

Mr. McFadden: Staff may be dismissed for poor performance, poor attendance, gross misconduct, repeated misconduct and the contract of employment terminated. Information for the Department and its predecessors in relation to dismissals is set out in the following table. Totals of less than five are suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

	Number of staff dismissed
2009-10 (to date)	Less than 5
2008-09	8
2007-08	14
2006-07	11
2005-06	15

Staff may also be dismissed in law when a fixed term contract terminates at the end of the contract period and is not renewed. These are not included.

Information about the costs of terminating contracts is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Where the dismissal relates to either gross misconduct or repeated misconduct no severance cost payments are payable.

Departmental EC Law

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate his Department has made of the annual cost to the economy arising from UK implementation of EU legislation. [290088]

Mr. McFadden: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the annual cost to the economy arising from UK implementation of legislation that stems from the European Union.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately 1/3 of the annual total of 13.2 billion pounds.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* Blackberries and *(c)* laptop computers were issued to staff of his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following the (A) loss or (B) theft of a previous device. [290558]

Mr. McFadden: The Department holds information only on the total number of Blackberry and laptop computers used by BIS staff during the requested period and the mobile telephone services held by ex BERR staff in 2008. The information available is presented in the following table.

	Laptops in use	*Laptops lost/ stolen*	*Blackberries in use*	*Blackberries lost/stolen*	*Mobiles in use*	*Mobiles lost/ stolen*
2004	2,650	12	0	0	n/k	26
2005	2,500	14	60	3	n/k	11
2006	1,620	8	60	3	n/k	14

	Laptops in use	*Laptops lost/ stolen*	*Blackberries in use*	*Blackberries lost/stolen*	*Mobiles in use*	*Mobiles lost/ stolen*
2007	2,163	8	539	14	n/k	2
2008	1,917	13	567	17	949	2

Departmental Fle[illegible]le Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff of his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290565]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows:

1. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was created on 5 June, with the merger of BERR and DIUS.

2. Both staff on former BERR and DIUS terms and conditions have flexible working policies which enable staff to vary their conditioned hours, and support a work-life balance. The different ways to work flexibly include flexi-time, part-time, also compressed hours, term-times and home working. In addition staff can job share and have access to an internal job share register and the wider Civil Service Job Share Website.

3. The former Departments do not keep a central record of how many staff participate in such arrangements each year; flexible working is dealt with locally by line managers in accordance with the departmental policies. In the 2008 Staff Surveys, of the staff who responded to the survey 68 per cent. of former BERR and 66 per cent. of former DIUS staff said they worked flexibly.

Departmental ICT

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently (i) implemented, (ii) terminated prior to implementation and (iii) terminated following implementation. [290559]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills IT infrastructure systems are provided via long standing agreements with Fujitsu Services and cover desktop services, web infrastructure services and in some cases other business applications, which are charged for as part of the overall, bundled, service charge.

In the last five years the following systems have, however, been developed from scratch and the details requested are provided:

Flexible Computing

Reason for development: Provision of secure remote access services via Blackberries and mobile laptops

Development costs: £4.9 million

Lynx

Reason for development: Provision of a correspondence handling system

Development cost: £1.9 million

MATRIX 2

Reason for development: Upgrade to the Department's existing electronic document management system, (itself over five years old)

Development cost: £104,000

SPIRE

Reason for development: Provision of a range of electronic export control services

Development cost: £2.6 million

In all cases all systems were fully implemented and remain fully operational.

Departmental Industrial Accidents

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many workplace accidents have been reported in his Department in the last five months; and what the causes of each accident were. [290092]

Mr. McFadden: Since its inception on 8 June, there have been eight workplace accidents recorded across the BIS estate related to departmental employees or contractors. The cause of each accident, all of which were relatively minor, was as follows:

1. Finger caught by spring loaded bin lid.

2. Bump on head following fall caused by an ongoing medical condition.

3. Bump on nose caused by front cover of a paper towel dispenser falling open.

4. Fall following standing on an office chair (two instances).

5. Contractor cut finger while replacing broken light fitting.

6. Injured back while moving a cabinet.

7. Struck knee while lifting an item of computer equipment into trolley bag.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of members of his Department are recorded as having a second language. [290458]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, based on business demand, there are 19 civil servants in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills currently receiving language training from our preferred supplier.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many members of staff in his Department have been required to move office in changes arising from the most recent departmental reorganisation; and how many of these had been required to move office in changes arising from the previous reorganisation. [290090]

Mr. McFadden: Since the creation of BIS we have moved Ministers and their private office staff, plus Press Office staff. In total, we have moved 46 staff. We have also moved 170 policy officials within our two London buildings, although these were simply people moves rather than structural changes.

Moving ex DIUS staff into 1 Victoria Street was already planned before the merger between DIUS and BERR to create BIS. None of these moves were required at the previous MOG, when DECC was created and ex BERR staff moved from 1 Victoria Street to 3 Whitehall Place.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of staff in his Department joined his Department or its predecessors after working in the private sector. [290095]

Mr. McFadden: We do not record this information nor hold it centrally. It could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many members of his Department are suspended from their duties; and for what reasons. [290097]

Mr. McFadden: We are unable to supply details of suspensions as authority to suspend staff is delegated to line managers throughout the Department and a central record is not maintained.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department and its predecessors at each Civil Service payband. [290561]

Mr. McFadden: The average length of employment of ex-DIUS staff is shown in the following table as at 31 March.

Pay band	*Years*
EA	8.1
EO	8.8
HEO	7.9
SEO	9.1
G7	8.1
G6	6.8
Directors, directors general and above	3.4

The average length of employment of ex-BERR staff is shown in the following table as at 31 March.

Pay band	*Years*
AA	8.2
AO	19.2
EO	18.2
HEO	20.9
SEO	21.0
G6	12.7
G7.	17.9
Directors, directors general and above	11.6

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1935W, on departmental marketing, how many staff in his Department have responsibility for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [290215]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) had one member of staff responsible for managing the Department's brand. This included the publication and dissemination of the brand guidelines and advising on their application. It is estimated that 25 per cent. of this person's time was spent on branding-related activities. Based on the average pay costs for a member of staff at this grade, this represents a staff cost of approximately £11,653 in 2008/09.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) had one member of staff responsible for managing the Department's brand. It is estimated that 25 per cent. of this person's time was spent on branding-related activities. The total staff cost on branding was approximately £6,300 in 2008/09.

Departmental Meetings

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have met representatives of (i) Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd, (ii) Eastern Petroleum Corporation Ltd, (iii) African Minerals Ltd, (iv) Landis+Gyr and (v) Energy Enterprises Ltd in the last three years. [289937]

Ian Lucas: Officials from UK Trade and Investment have met with representatives from Landis & Gyr in the last three years. Neither Ministers nor officials have met with Gulf Keystone Petroleum Ltd., Eastern Petroleum Corporation Ltd., African Minerals Ltd. or Energy Enterprises Ltd.

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what stocktake meetings his Department has had with the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in the last 12 months. [289942]

Mr. McFadden: The Prime Minister's delivery unit is in constant contact with Departments as part of its process of taking stock of delivery. It reports regularly to the PM, the Treasury and the Departments concerned.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291706]

Mr. McFadden: The Department spent the following on hire vehicles (including leasing) in the last five financial years:

	£
2004-05	709,714
2005-06	662,084
2006-07	574,068
2007-08	628,126
2008-09	673,781

Departmental Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many properties owned by the Department and its predecessors were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the bill for each was in each such year. [290566]

Mr. McFadden: This Department owns only one building, situated in Edinburgh, which is fully occupied. This is a warehouse facility that is currently let to the British Geological Survey, part of the Natural Environment Research Council, and they are liable for the business rates bill. The building is let to them on a 10 year term which began in August 2005.

All other departmental buildings are leased.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report,* column 2111W, on departmental official hospitality, how much his Department spent on hospitality and entertainment in 2008-09. [290172]

Mr. McFadden: The Department spent £154,444 on hospitality and £1,078,530 on entertainment in 2008-09.

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff took paternity leave from his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; and what the average length of such leave has been. [290564]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows:

1. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was created on 5 June 2009, with the merger of BERR and DIUS.

2. The former Departments did not keep a central record of how many staff took paternity leave. Paternity leave is dealt with locally by line managers in accordance with the departmental policies. The information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

3. Paid paternity leave for former BERR staff is two weeks and for former DIUS staff is three weeks.

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department and its predecessors; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290567]

Mr. McFadden: You will be aware that the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has only recently been created (6 June 2009) by merging the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). BIS is still in the early stages of setting up its own systems and policies so I have provided you with the information you have requested based on the rewards paid by the former BERR and DIUS.

Ex-BERR and ex-DIUS has two common bonuses, while ex-BERR has three. Both Departments awards:

1. Non-consolidated performance pay and non-pay reward to recognise performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award. This award is open to all staff.

2. Annual Performance Awards paid to Highly Successful performance as part of the annual pay award.

3. In addition, BERR also awards Team Triumphs—Team Triumphs is an awards ceremony designed to recognise the achievements of teams in the Department. Any team can be nominated providing it has at least two members. Cost of this scheme comes out of non-consolidated performance pay and non-pay rewards pot.

The following tables show the number of staff receiving the awards, and the cost of the scheme.

Financial year[1]	*Non-consolidated performance pay*[2] *(includes non-pay reward and Team Triumph)*		*Performance awards*	
	Number of staff receiving	*Total value (£)*	*Number of staff receiving*	*Total value*[3] *(£)*
2008-09	1,218	586,631	2,930	2,240,592
2007-08	1,238	693,386	3,86	[4]2,265,502
2006-07	919	491,669	1,286	2,532,180
2005-06	1,237	521,902	1,257	1,808,630
2004-05	1,261	498,592	1,274	1,563,180

[1] Financial year running from 1 April to 31 March.

[2] The non-consolidated performance pay and performance awards for non-SCS staff are paid on a non-consolidated, non-pensionable basis and do not increase the Department's paybill costs each year. For the SCS the Senior Salaries Review Body determines the level of expenditure to cover bonuses.

[3] The total figure includes SCS staffs.

[4] Includes staff who were transferred from DTI to DIUS as part of the June 2007 machinery of government changes as these staff received a DTI/BERR pay award in 2007. Does not include those staff transferred into BERR from Cabinet Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the June 2007 machinery of government changes as these staff received Cabinet Office and DCLG pay awards respectively in 2007.

Note:

In 2007-08 the total value of bonuses paid was approximately 1.5 per cent. of the total Department's paybill.

Table for DIUS

Financial year	*Non-consolidated performance pay*		*Performance awards*	
	Number of staff receiving	*Total value (£)*	*Number of staff receiving*	*Total value (£)*
2007-08	273	21,125	[1]0	[1]0
2008-09	201	13,855	216	459,615

[1] The performance awards for 2007-08 was paid by both former Departments.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what data his Department by his Department and its predecessor holds on the level of diversity in the recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290514]

Mr. McFadden: The Department invites each candidate in individual recruitment exercises to complete a diversity monitoring questionnaire. The information from questionnaires is collated and monitored in order to assess the effectiveness of our advertising and recruitment processes and the workforce profile.

In line with the requirements in the public sector Employment Duties, the Department publishes annual reports covering our equality and diversity reporting responsibilities, including diversity data on applicants for employment. The annual reports for 2008 and 2009 are not yet available following machinery of Government changes and extracting the specified data alone at this stage would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289660]

Mr. McFadden: Since the inception of BIS on 8 June, the following amounts of waste have been recycled by this Department:

June—40,700 Kg (63.9 per cent. of total)

July—42,342 Kg (62.1 per cent. of total)

August—33,929 Kg (64.3 per cent. of total)

I would also refer the hon. Member to the previously published Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reports in which central Government Departments publicly reported on the data requested. The most recent report can be found at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdiu2008/

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there have been any changes to the furnishings in offices of Ministers in his Department following the recent departmental reorganisation. [290226]

Mr. McFadden: There have been no changes to the furnishings in offices occupied by Ministers in this Department following the recent departmental reorganisation. New Ministers have taken the furniture of departing Ministers.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289748]

Mr. McFadden: In the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), I am the Minister responsible for overseeing the delivery of value for money. In addition, Lord Davies has responsibility for overseeing public service reform.

BIS is committed to ensuring that public services delivered to citizens and business are as efficient and effective as possible. There are specific staff leading a range of work on value for money, public service reform and public sector reform. They co-ordinate work across the Department and engage with partners and other Government Departments to drive change.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of assimilating Ministerial responsibility for skills into his Department. [290223]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Solihull (Lorely Burt) on 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 436W.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of staff in his Department have worked on attachment to the private sector. [290093]

Mr. McFadden: We do not record this information nor hold it centrally. It could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department and its predecessor in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289677]

Mr. McFadden: Training budgets are delegated to line managers to determine locally what external training will be funded. This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what private sector training courses for Civil Service officials are available to staff in his Department with funding provided by his Department. [290096]

Mr. McFadden: Training budgets are delegated to line managers to determine locally what private sector training is suitable and will be funded. This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on tickets for *(a)* air and *(b)* rail travel for (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department which were not used in each of the last three years. [280008]

Mr. McFadden: In BIS the criteria for booking travel should be value for money, staff travelling on official business must take advantage of any cheap facilities which maybe available including restricted non refundable tickets wherever practical.

The Department does not separately record details of unused tickets by Ministers, special advisers and civil servants.

For the period April 2008 to March 2009 the total amount of tickets booked through our travel booking agents and refunded was:

	£
Rail including Eurostar	146,325.71
Air	772,877.29

Details for previous years are not centrally recorded due to the number of Government changes to the Department to provide this information would entail disproportionate cost.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many journeys and at what cost the Secretary of State has made in a ministerial capacity by *(a)* airplane, *(b)* train, *(c)* helicopter and *(d)* car since October 2008; what class of travel was used for each airplane and train journey; and on what dates such journeys took place. [291678]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office has published a list of all overseas visits undertaken by Ministers costing £500 or more during the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has published on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS, the number of and cost to Departments of the provision of allocated cars and drivers by the Government Car and Despatch Agency to Ministers during 2008-09.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Draft Legislative Programme: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on whether funding allocated to his Department is to be allocated to the Department for Communities and Local Government to help implement the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative programme for 2009-10. [290484]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills discussed the Department's £50 million contribution to the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative programme with the chief secretary to the Treasury, as part of the process of publishing "Building Britain's Future."

East of England Development Agency: Consultants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 574W, on the East of England Development Agency: Fishburn Hedges, what payments the East of England Development Agency has made to Fishburn Hedges since May 2008; and for what services each such payment was made. [289779]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since May 2008, Fishburn Hedges have provided support to EEDA with specific public affairs services. This support includes legislative and policy updates, a parliamentary monitoring service, information and briefings, support on political visits and events, and parliamentary procedures. EEDA does not have sufficient capacity in house to manage all these areas of expertise.

Date	*Total payment*[1]	*Service*
May 2008	4,643.22	Public Affairs support
June 2008	4,555.00	Public Affairs support
July 2008	4,514.35	Public Affairs support
August 2008	4,565.95	Public Affairs support
September 2008	4,638.17	Public Affairs support
November 2008	15,384.07	Public Affairs support + support for business event
February 2009	18,629.25	Public Affairs support
March 2009	9,513.84	Public Affairs support
April 2009	9,471.47	Public Affairs support
May 2009	10,340.00	Public Affairs support
July 2009	5,421.35	Public Affairs support
August 2009	10,307.02	Public Affairs support

[1] These figures are inclusive of VAT.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 924W, on the East of England Development Agency: public relations, and with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells of 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 574W, on the East of England Development Agency: Fishburn Hedges, for what reason the payments made to Fishburn Hedges are not classified as payments for external advice on public relations. [289781]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The previous question asked how much EEDA has spent on 'retaining external advice on public relations'.

By 'retaining external advice on public relations' EEDA interprets this as where a retainer contract is in place, with a monthly fee paid to an agency for public relations services. EEDA defines 'public relations services' as supporting EEDA's corporate communications. This is a function we manage in-house with a team of professionals. EEDA does not therefore 'retain' any agency to provide 'external advice on public relations'.

EEDA uses public relations agencies for specific projects where additional capacity is required.

Fishburn Hedges is a public affairs agency and EEDA uses them on a retainer basis to provide specific public affairs support services. This includes legislative and policy updates, a parliamentary monitoring service, information and briefings, support on political visits and events and support on parliamentary procedures. EEDA does not have sufficient capacity in house to provide all these areas of expertise.

Electrical Equipment: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to reduce the administrative burden upon companies imposed by compliance with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and if he will make a statement. [289404]

Ian Lucas: I am currently considering amendments to the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) regulations with a view to reducing the administrative burdens on business. The Department issued a consultation paper in December 2008, outlining proposals to streamline the data reporting requirements, approval process for prospective producer compliance schemes and the introduction of a simplified system for recording evidence of the levels of WEEE collected and the recycling and recovery targets achieved.

I am hoping to introduce the amending regulations before Parliament later in the autumn with the new systems coming into effect from 1 January 2010.

Employment Tribunals Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times his Department and its predecessors have been taken to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; what the reason cited in each case was; and in how many cases the tribunal found in favour of the *(a)* the employee and *(b)* the Department. [290562]

Mr. McFadden: The Department and its predecessors have defended 28 claims for the financial years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, some of which were for multiple reasons.

The reasons cited in the claims filed were:

Age discrimination
Breach of contract
Constructive dismissal
Disability discrimination
Equal pay
Gender
Race discrimination
Unfair dismissal
Unfair selection for redundancy.

Of the 28 claims:

Two claims are still outstanding
14 claims were withdrawn
Eight claims were found in favour of the Department
Four claims were upheld by the tribunal.

Information for 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Further details on the above cases are suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

EU Membership

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate his Department has made of the annual regulatory cost to the economy arising from UK membership of the EU. [290089]

Ian Lucas: It is very difficult to provide precise figures for the annual regulatory cost to the economy arising from UK membership of the European Union.

The administrative burdens measurement exercise carried out by the Government in 2006 put the proportion of administrative burdens stemming from the EU at approximately one third of the annual total of £13.2 billion.

Export Credit Guarantees: Maldives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the debt owed to the Export Credits Guarantee Department by the Maldives was *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* on the most recent date for which information is available; whether he plans to write off outstanding debt owed by the Maldives; what recent representations he has received on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [289609]

Ian Lucas: There are no outstanding debts to ECGD from the Malvides, and ECGD has not written off any Maldives debt.

I have not received any recent representations on this issue.

Exports: Government Assistance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what programmes to support exporters his Department has announced in the last year; and what further options to support exporters his Department is considering. [292122]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the Government organisation that helps UK-based companies to succeed in an increasingly global economy and maximise their international success.

UKTI's trade development services for exporters aim to help develop their international trade potential and provide access to international markets. Further details on these services can be found on UKTI's website at:

www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

Specific examples of the help made available by UKTI in the last 12 months include the 12 March 2009 announcement of the "Gateway to Global Growth" programme to provide specialist, tailored advice and support for British companies to help them improve and extend their exporting experience, and the 2009 Budget announcement of £10 million of the Strategic Investment Fund being channelled into UKTI, to be spent on events to promote UK sector expertise both in the UK and abroad. The funds are available to help UK businesses better showcase their strengths to overseas customers and markets and form part of the Government's New Industry New Jobs strategy.

A raft of wider Government assistance for UK business has been made available through BIS in various initiatives over the past year and details can be found at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

My noble Friend the Secretary of State for BIS announced the creation of the Advisory Panel on New Industry, New Jobs, Universities and Skills on 31 July. Looking forward, this panel will help generate ideas across the whole of the Government's New Industry, New Jobs agenda, challenging conventional policy thinking in these areas.

Forgemasters: Sheffield

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist Sheffield Forgemasters to invest in a new press for ultra-heavy forgings; when he expects the decision to invest to be announced; and if he will make a statement. [289347]

Ian Lucas: The Government have received an application for investment by Sheffield Forgemasters International Limited, for the development of a production facility for ultra heavy forgings. This is being considered under the Industrial Development Act. As yet no decision has been taken.

Further Education

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the 10,000 additional places on science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses announced by his Department on 20 July 2009 will be taken up at each higher education institution at the start of the academic year 2009-10. [291632]

Mr. Lammy: On 23 July we announced that student support would be made available for 10,000 additional places on science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses.

The 10,000 places were allocated to institutions by HEFCE according to their share of full-time undergraduates that entered in 2007-08 to priority subjects identified by Government. Where institutions indicated to HEFCE that they were unable to take up their share of places they were redistributed pro-rata across the sector.

More details on the final allocation of the 10,000 additional places are available on the HEFCE website at the following link:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/circlets/2009/c117_09/

Further Education: Government Assistance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to provide financial assistance to those entering further education. [291296]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* There is a range of financial assistance to learners entering further education. Learners on priority provision, as well as those in receipt of income-related benefits, are not required to pay a fee for learning.

Adult learners (aged 19 plus) can apply for the Adult Learning Grant which pays up to £30 per week to those on low incomes undertaking full-time learning for their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification. Education maintenance allowance (EMA) of up to £30 per week is available to eligible 16-19 year olds participating in learning that meets the EMA eligibility criteria.

Colleges are allocated discretionary funding to help students aged 20 and over meet childcare costs. Learners under the age of 20 can apply for help with childcare costs through Care to Learn. Discretionary Learner Support Funds are also available for learners over the age of 16 experiencing financial hardship.

Learners can also apply for loans. Since July 2009, students have been able to apply for Professional and Career Development Loans (P and CDLs). These build on the successful Career Development Loans programme and offer more generous terms for students with loans up to £10,000 and lower interest rates.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much Government funding was made available for further education in the academic year 2008-09. [291297]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Expenditure by the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) on adult further education (FE) and skills for 2008-09 was £4.852 billion. This is based on expected outturn data as reported in the 2009 departmental report (July 2009).

The majority of funding is routed through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and supports adult participation through the Adult Learner Responsive route, Employer Responsive route (Train to Gain and Apprenticeships), and Adult Safeguarded Learning.

Some of the resource expended by DIUS supported the wider FE sector including the pre 19 age group, in the role which DIUS had as sponsor of the FE service.

Haulage: Government Assistance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department has provided to the haulage industry during the economic downturn. [291682]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not provide any specific support for the haulage sector. However, we have taken steps to help improve cash flow, to increase the availability of the credit businesses need, and to encourage investment so that businesses come through the recession ready to grow.

In particular, we obtained bank lending commitments from RBS and Lloyds to lend £27 billion additional lending to businesses this year. This includes lending guaranteed under the Working Capital Scheme.

In addition, we introduced a trade credit insurance top-up scheme which provides protections for firms suffering a reduction in cover.

We have also taken steps to assist small businesses to overcome short-term cash-flow problems—for example the enterprise finance guarantee and also measures to ensure prompt payment by both public and private sectors.

In October 2008, Business Link introduced a health check service from which 2,394 businesses in the transport, storage and communications sector have benefited.

Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many additional student number places funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England there will be *(a)* in total and *(b)* for full-time, first year undergraduates in 2010-11. [291617]

Mr. Lammy: In his letter of 6 May the then Secretary of State informed HEFCE that up to 10,000 additional student numbers (ASN) could be awarded in 2010-11, with that figure to be finally confirmed in the next annual grant letter. At this stage in the cycle of negotiations with institutions it is not possible to determine the breakdown of those places.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what proportion of university students who started their course in each year since 1997 had parents in the *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C1, *(d)* C2, *(e)* D and *(f)* E social grouping; [292127]

(2) what proportion of students from Cornwall who started a higher education course in each year since 1997 had parents in the *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C1, *(d)* C2, *(e)* D and *(f)* E social grouping. [292128]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information on socio-economic classification from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Parental socio-economic classification information is self-reported by entrants aged under 21, therefore figures are restricted to this group of entrants. This information should be regarded with caution due to the high proportion of students who fail to report their parents' occupations, or who provide incomplete or imprecise information. Figures prior to 2002/03 are not comparable due to the change from social class to socio-economic classification.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Full-time undergraduate entrants by local authority and socio-economic classification, UK higher education institutions[1], academic years 2002/03 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Local authority*	*Higher managerial and professional occupations*	*Lower managerial and professional occupations*	*Intermediate occupations*	*Small employers and own account workers*	*Lower supervisory and technical occupations*
2002/03	All entrants[4]	17	22	10	5	3
	of which: Cornwall	14	24	9	8	4
2003/04	All entrants[4]	19	25	10	6	4
	of which: Cornwall	15	24	11	9	5
2004/05	All entrants[4]	18	25	10	6	4
	of which: Cornwall	14	24	9	8	5
2005/06	All entrants[4]	17	23	10	5	4
	of which: Cornwall	13	23	9	8	5
2006/07	All entrants[4]	17	22	9	6	4
	of which: Cornwall	12	25	10	9	5
2007/08	All entrants[4]	17	22	9	5	3
	of which: Cornwall	14	24	9	10	5

Academic year	*Local authority*	*Semi-routine occupations*	*Routine occupations*	*Never worked and long-term unemployed[2]*	*Missing/not classified*	*Total*
2002/03	All entrants[4]	7	4	0	31	100
	of which: Cornwall	7	[illegible]	0	30	100
2003/04	All entrants[4]	8	4	0	25	100
	of which: Cornwall	9	3	0	24	100

Academic year	*Local authority*	*Semi-routine occupations*	*Routine occupations*	*Never worked and long-term unemployed*[2]	*Missing/not classified*	*Total*
2004/05	All entrants[4]	8	4	0	26	100
	of which: Cornwall	8	4	0	28	100
2005/06	All entrants[4]	8	4	0	30	100
	of which: Cornwall	8	4	0	30	100
2006/07	All entrants[4]	8	4	0	32	100
	of which: Cornwall	9	4	0	26	100
2007/08	All entrants[4]	8	4	0	31	100
	of which: Cornwall	9	4	0	24	100

[1] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
[2] Information is not comprehensively collected on the 'never worked and long-term unemployed' category for students: Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.
[3] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.
[4] Covers entrants of all domiciles.
Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of state school leavers entered Russell Group universities in 2008. [290373]

Mr. Lammy: It is estimated that 6 per cent. of young people who were in English maintained schools and aged 15 at the start of academic year 2002/03, progressed to HE at a Russell group institution by the age of 19 (in 2006/07). Figures for 2007/08 will be available in 2010.

This figure has been calculated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency student record and the Learning and Skills Council individualised learner record.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of university applicants who fail to secure a place for entry who will be unemployed and claiming benefits in 2009. [290482]

Mr. Lammy: As of 27 August, one week after A-level results day, UCAS figures show that of those who applied for a university course this year, 151,280 UK domiciled students had not yet secured a place, though many more students will secure places before provisional acceptance figures are published on 21 October. Of these, 39,347 had a non-clearing outcome pending, 105,967 were eligible to enter clearing and 5,966 had withdrawn from the scheme completely.

For those who do not secure a place at university through the UCAS main scheme or in clearing there are several options available. For example, this year we expect there to be 250,000 young people starting an apprenticeship. We have recently announced an extra 47,000 youth jobs supported by the Future Jobs Fund for young people who are unable to find work or training within a year.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people entered *(a)* further and *(b)* higher education in the last 12 months. [291295]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: Information on the number of young people participating in further education is given in a statistical first release, the last version being published on 25 June 2009:

http://www. thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrjun09

In 2007-08, the latest year for which full-year figures are available, 1,055,600 learners aged under 19 participated in further education (excluding school sixth forms). Provisional figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in October 2009. In 2007-08, the latest year for which figures are available, 301,055 students aged under 21 entered English Higher Education Institutions. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Notes for further education figure:

1. Source: FE, WBL, UFI and ACL ILR data—coverage: England.

2. This figure has been rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. This figure is based on age as at 31 August of the academic year. The common definition used for "young people" in further education is Under 19.

4. This figure includes participation in FE (General Further Education Colleges including Tertiary, Sixth Form Colleges, Special College—Agricultural and Horticultural Colleges and Art and Design Colleges, Specialist Colleges and External Institutions), UFI, ACL and Work-based Learning. It includes a small element

of FE provision delivered in HE organisations where the organisations have submitted ILR data. Data regarding school sixth forms is not included.

5. This figure is a count of the number of learners that participated at any point during the year. Learners undertaking more than one course will appear only once for each data collection. However, learners that are included in different data collections (e.g. participating in FE and undertaking an apprenticeship) will be counted more than once. Information on the number of learners entering/starting a course in published for apprenticeships but not FE provision.

Notes for higher education figures:

1. Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

2. This figure is taken from the HESA student record which is collected annually, is based on a HESA standard registration population and has been rounded to the nearest five.

3. This figure covers students from all domiciles entering both full-time and part-time courses of all levels. This figure refers to students starting the first year of their course in the 2007-08 academic year and is based on age as at 31 August of the academic year. The common definition used for "young people" in higher education is Under 21.

Higher Education: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of students entering higher education for *(a)* full time and *(b)* part time first degrees have been from Cornwall in each year since 1997. [291715]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

All first degree entrants[1] and first degree entrants from Cornwall local authority[2] by mode of study UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997-98 to 2007-08

	All entrants		Of which: from Cornwall			
Academic year	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Percentage full-time from Cornwall	Percentage part-time from Cornwall
1997-98	332,075	30,810	2,270	165	0.7	0.5
1998-99	320,730	34,275	2,240	310	0.7	0.9
1999-2000	318,340	33,630	2,245	290	0.7	0.9
2000-01	319,350	31,630	2,215	225	0.7	0.7
2001-02	334,235	34,080	2,130	265	0.6	0.8
2002-03	352,790	35,085	2,215	220	0.6	0.6
2003-04	361,525	35,920	2,255	310	0.6	0.9
2004-05	364,025	32,765	2,190	230	0.6	0.7
2005-06	384,775	33,625	2,435	385	0.6	1.1
2006-07	373,625	31,360	2,210	365	0.6	1.2
2007-08	390,180	30,305	2,330	295	0.6	1.0

[1] Figures for all entrants covers students of all domiciles.

[2] Local authority is defined by valid home postcodes.

[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

2. Percentages are based on un-rounded figures.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of 18 to 21 year-olds from Cornwall started a university course in each year since 1997. [292126]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not hold information on the number of 18 to 21-year-olds resident in Cornwall, so cannot calculate the proportion who enter HE. The number of 18 to 21-year-old entrants from Cornwall has been provided as an alternative. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what effect *(a)* the freeze in maintenance loans and grants, *(b)* the abolition of the guaranteed maximum financial support for new students previously in receipt of the educational maintenance allowance, *(c)* the reduction in the student loan repayment holiday from five years to two years and *(d)* the reduction in support for students on initial teacher training courses will have on expenditure on student support in 2010-11; what proportion of originally planned expenditure will be saved in each case; and if he will make a statement. [291618]

Mr. Lammy: This Government remain committed to ensuring that financial support should enable students to benefit from higher education, particularly for those who most need help to study, while at the same time being affordable overall.

Regulations for the academic year 2010-11 were laid on 1 July setting out the entitlements for students. Initial estimates indicate that the changes in the regulations, taken together, will reduce expenditure by some £60 million in grants and £130 million in loans[1] in financial year 2010-11 compared to previous estimates.

[1] Loans expenditure expressed in resource terms. These costs are made up of the interest rate subsidy of loans together with the costs that are never repaid, for example, loans that are written off after 25 years or death of the borrower.

In the current economic climate, we believe these tough decisions are in the interests of students, universities and taxpayers alike. The measures we have taken will help ensure the student support system is affordable and sustainable in the longer term but without damaging access to higher education.

Higher Education: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people aged *(a)* 21 years and under and *(b)* over 21 years old in each socio-economic group resident in (i) Hemel Hempstead constituency, (ii) Dacorum and (iii) Hertfordshire attended university in each of the last five years. [289418]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in the tables. Figures for 2008/09 will be available in January 2010.

Table 1: Full-time undergraduate enrolments[1] from Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency by age and socio-economic classification[2] UK higher education institutions academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
Socio-economic classification	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	160	5	235	10	265	25	255	30	270	25
Lower managerial and professional occupations	205	20	295	25	335	30	330	35	350	35
Intermediate occupations	110	10	150	20	155	20	145	25	150	20
Small employers and own account workers	40	5	55	5	65	5	60	10	70	5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	30	5	45	5	50	10	50	5	45	5
Semi-routine occupations	75	15	85	15	100	20	95	25	110	30
Routine occupations	30	0	25	0	40	5	35	10	35	10
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total known	650	55	890	80	1,010	125	970	145	1,035	130
Missing[4]	570	225	295	265	225	200	210	190	250	180

[1] The table does not include enrolments where the parliamentary constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students: Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2: Full-time undergraduate enrolments[1] from Dacorum census district by age and socio-economic classification[2] UK higher education institutions academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
Socio-economic classification	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	310	10	485	25	530	45	525	60	545	50
Lower managerial and professional occupations	330	30	485	45	550	50	560	55	605	55
Intermediate occupations	160	20	225	25	245	30	230	35	235	30
Small employers and own account workers	65	5	90	5	95	10	95	10	115	5
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	45	5	70	5	80	10	80	10	75	10
Semi-routine occupations	100	20	115	20	140	35	140	35	155	40
Routine occupations	40	5	50	5	55	15	50	15	50	15
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total known	1,050	85	1,520	130	1,695	195	1,685	225	1,780	210
Missing[4]	920	340	445	305	360	275	360	260	430	250

[1] The table does not include enrolments where the Census district of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students: Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 3: Full-time undergraduate enrolments[1] from Hertfordshire local authority by and socio-economic classification[2] UK higher education institutions academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
Socio-economic classification	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*	*21 and under*	*Over 21*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	2,955	85	4,015	175	4,360	300	4,405	405	4,440	415
Lower managerial and professional occupations	3,035	190	3,915	335	4,240	415	4,345	510	4,350	505
Intermediate occupations	1,380	175	1,735	250	1,925	305	2,010	315	2,015	320
Small employers and own account workers	650	25	785	60	840	90	840	120	870	100
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	410	15	510	25	560	50	575	70	550	65
Semi-routine occupations	870	165	960	195	1,100	270	1,130	275	1,175	285
Routine occupations	335	50	360	65	390	100	425	100	430	95
Never worked and long-term unemployed[3]	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	10	0
Total known	9,640	700	12,275	1,105	13,415	1,525	13,740	1,795	13,845	1,790
Missing[4]	7,270	3,060	3,565	2,635	2,890	2,455	2,900	2,165	3,155	2,135

[1] The table does not include enrolments where the Local Authority of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

[2] This field collects the socio-economic classification of students participating in HE if 21 or over at the start of their course or parental classification if under 21.

[3] Information is not comprehensively collected on the "Never worked and long-term unemployed" category for students: Students who fit this group are usually classed as having missing information.

[4] Covers students whose socio-economic classification was missing or not classified: not classified includes occupations which were inadequately described, not classifiable or unstated.

Notes:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded up or down to the nearest five, therefore components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Maintenance Grants

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students were receiving non-repayable maintenance grants from *(a)* Dacorum and *(b)* Hertfordshire County Council local education authority in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average grant received by such students was in that period. [289414]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows:

Students awarded grants in academic year 2008/09 (provisional)[1]

Local authority	*Number of students awarded grants*	*Average (£)*
Hertfordshire	8,530	2,090

[1] Figures cover the Higher Education Grant, the Maintenance Grant and grants and allowances for children and dependents. Each of these grant types has a different maximum entitlement amount. Data at mid-November 2008. Figures may change as later applications are processed.

Source:

Student Loans Company

Reliable information is not available at district level.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many non-UK domiciled students of each nationality were offered and accepted places on veterinary science degree courses at universities in England in the last five academic years. [291535]

Mr. Lammy: The information is in the following table. A further breakdown of each non-UK student's country of domicile or declared nationality is not available. Figures for academic year 2009-10 are not yet available.

Offers and acceptances for non-UK domiciled applicants for veterinary science degrees at institutions in England

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Applicants receiving offers	21	37	58	47	66
Accepted applicants	12	14	35	28	35

Notes:

1. 'Offers' covers students who were offered a place which was dependent on obtaining satisfactory exam results or on non-academic conditions.
2. Accepted applicants cover students who obtained specified results and were accepted for study on their chosen course.

Source:

UCAS

Higher Education: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pupils in Tamworth constituency entered higher education in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the number of such pupils entering higher education in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011. [291460]

Mr. Lammy: The Government do not make forward estimates of the number of students entering higher education disaggregated at a constituency level.

The numbers of 18-year-old undergraduate entrants to UK higher education institutions from Tamworth constituency, in each year since 1997, are shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) in January 2010.

18-year-old undergraduate entrants[1] from Tamworth constituency[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Number*
1997/98	145
1998/99	210
1999/2000	220
2000/01	210
2001/02	215
2002/03	220
2003/04	240
2004/05	195
2005/06	215
2006/07	270
2007/08	235

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time courses. [2] The table does not include entrants where the parliamentary constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes. [3] Excludes the Open university due inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series. *Source:* Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Industrial Sector: Ownership

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of each of the 30 main industrial sectors in the UK is foreign-owned. [292134]

Ian Lucas: The following information is as follows:

Percentage of output (gross value added (GVA)) generated by UK and foreign-owned companies, 2006

Sector	*Foreign owned*	*UK owned*
Manufacturing	35	65
Services[1]	18	82
Other[1]	25	75
Total[1]	22	78

[1] The Annual Business Inquiry does not cover all parts of the services and other categories.

Source:

National Statistics (derived from Annual Business Inquiry regional data, published in Regional Economic Performance Indicators, 2009 (BERR))

Infrastructure UK

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what work Infrastructure UK plans to take in relation to *(a)* broadband communications and *(b)* the development of a smart grid electricity network. [289852]

Mr. McFadden: We are in the process of establishing the future work plan for Infrastructure UK. As detailed in "Building Britain's Future", full details of the new body will be announced and it is intended that a chair appointed in time for the pre-Budget report.

Infrastructure UK: Meetings

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Department for Energy and Climate Change on energy infrastructure in relation to the establishment of Infrastructure UK. [289774]

Mr. McFadden: We have regular discussions with DECC on energy infrastructure.

Infrastructure UK: Ofgem

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what work Infrastructure UK plans to take in collaboration with Ofgem. [289854]

Mr. McFadden: We are in the process of establishing the future work plan for Infrastructure UK. As detailed in "Building Britain's Future", full details of the new body will be announced and it is intended that a chair appointed in time for the pre-Budget report.

Insolvency

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many reports reviewed as part of the recent Statement of Insolvency Practice 16 performance report did not provide sufficient information to creditors on valuation and marketing. [290055]

Ian Lucas: The disproportionate cost threshold for providing an answer to a parliamentary question is £750.

The area of the Department responsible for answering a parliamentary question assesses the costs involved, including staff and other resources, and whether this represents disproportionate cost.

To answer this question would involve examining some 202 separate reports. To determine which of those reports did not provide sufficient information regarding valuation and/or marketing would require significant staff resources, which would be in excess of the £750 disproportionate cost threshold.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of the failed reports referred to in the recent Statement of Insolvency Practice 16 performance report related to insolvency practitioners under each of the authorising bodies in the UK. [290056]

Ian Lucas: The disproportionate cost threshold for providing an answer to a parliamentary question is £750.

The area of the Department responsible for answering a parliamentary question assesses the costs involved, including staff and other resources, and whether this represents disproportionate cost.

To answer this question would involve examining some 202 separate reports. Administration appointments are also often held by more than one insolvency practitioner acting on a joint and several basis.

To determine which insolvency practitioners provided information deemed non-compliant with SIP 16 by reference to their authorising body would therefore require significant staff resources, which would be in excess of the £750 disproportionate cost threshold.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which insolvency practitioners persistently breached Statement of Insolvency

Practice (SIP) 16 as referred to in the recent SIP 16 performance report. [290058]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service considers that the information you have requested is exempt information under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Section 40 (2) applies where the information sought is not the personal data of the applicant and either of the conditions in subsections 3 or 4 of that section is satisfied.

The Insolvency Service considers that subsection 3 applies, and disclosure of the personal data of the insolvency practitioners reporting to The Insolvency Service under the SIP 16 provisions to you would contravene the first data protection principle. The first data protection principle is defined in part 1 of schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act (DPA) and requires that data be processed fairly and lawfully and only processed if at least one of the conditions in schedule 2 is met.

The disclosure of personal information about the insolvency practitioners to you would amount to data processing as defined by the DPA in contravention of this principle as none of the conditions in schedule 2 apply.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to ensure that creditors have been provided with missing information in Statement of Insolvency Practice (SIP) 16 cases where compliance was lacking, as referred to in the recent SIP 16 performance report. [290059]

Ian Lucas: The issuing of a report under the requirements of SIP 16 is in addition to the requirements of the Insolvency Act 1986 whereby the administrator must issue a full report on his proposals for the administration within eight weeks of his appointment. In the circumstances we have not requested further missing information be published as it should be contained within the administration proposals and sent to creditors. It is always open to creditors to seek further information from the administrator if they wish to do so.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to incorporate the recommendations of the recent Statement of Insolvency Practice (SIP) 16 performance report in SIP 16 guidance. [290084]

Ian Lucas: The Insolvency Service will work with the Recognised Professional Bodies (which authorise the majority of insolvency practitioners) to strengthen SIP 16 where necessary and issue further guidance to practitioners to ensure that creditors are given a detailed explanation and justification of why a pre-packaged sale was undertaken, so that they can be satisfied that the administrator has acted with due regard for their interests.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department takes to recover funds from disqualified directors after their companies have been declared insolvent; and if he will make a statement. [290404]

Ian Lucas: If an order for costs is made against a disqualified director as a result of an application by the Secretary of State or official receiver under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, then the Insolvency Service uses contract solicitors to recover those costs or to negotiate an appropriate sum.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what responsibility his Department has for the *(a)* investigation and *(b)* bringing of legal proceedings against directors of insolvent companies in circumstances in which there is evidence of misfeasance during the winding up of the company in question; and if he will make a statement. [290405]

Ian Lucas: If the company has entered voluntary liquidation, receivership or administration, the responsibility for the investigation and the bringing of legal proceedings for misfeasance, in an asset recovery context, is a matter for the insolvency practitioner. In compulsory winding up cases, it is the responsibility of the official receiver if the official receiver remains liquidator. In practice if there is a misfeasance case to answer, in an asset recovery context, the official receiver will write to the creditors to ask whether they are prepared to fund legal proceedings. If sufficient creditors are prepared to do so, the official receiver will seek the appointment of an insolvency practitioner as liquidator to take the matter forward. Without funding from the creditors it is not possible to take recovery proceedings unless there are already substantial asset realisations in the estate and the creditors have agreed to there monies being used for this purpose.

If misfeasance is alleged as a matter of unfitted conduct in a disqualification context, then in a voluntary liquidation, receivership or administration, the insolvency practitioner has a statutory duty to report the matter to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then has discretion to decide whether it sufficiently serious to warrant further investigation and disqualification proceedings being taken in the public interest. In a compulsory liquidation, the official receiver must decide whether it is sufficiently serious to justify submitting a disqualification report to the Secretary of State and if a disqualification report is submitted, the Secretary of State must consider the report and decide whether to authorise disqualification proceedings.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department releases to company creditors Insolvency Service reports on the actions of disqualified directors; and if he will make a statement. [290403]

Ian Lucas: Details of unfit conduct by a disqualified director are made available to creditors and other third parties via the Insolvency Service's website and via press releases. Official Receivers may also provide an additional report to creditors on the unfit conduct.

Insolvency Service: Finance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 196-7W, on the Insolvency Service: finance, how much was held in the Insolvency Service's *(a)* insolvency services accounts, *(b)* insolvency services investment account and *(c)* national insurance fund on average in each month of each of the last three years. [289329]

Ian Lucas: The amounts held in the Insolvency Service's *(a)* Insolvency Services Accounts, *(b)* Insolvency Services Investment Account and *(c)* national insurance fund on the last day of each month for the last three years were:

£000

Month	*(a)*	*(b)*	*(c)*
2006			
April	65,133	1,170,000	1,701
May	17,621	1,239,000	271
June	6,878	1,213,000	754
July	10,435	1,228,000	141
August	7,157	1,247,000	7,306
September	11,342	1,207,000	3,193
October	8,958	1,226,000	1,290
November	8,232	1,202,000	2,367
December	3,648	1,320,000	4,013
2007			
January	12,657	1,275,000	3,124
February	7,650	1,358,000	5,837
March	7,503	1,399,000	3,411
April	9,922	1,340,000	2,354
May	7,801	1,344,000	1,807
June	9,240	1,341,000	3,317
July	7,567	1,435,000	1,945
August	7,423	1,366,000	838
September	5,960	1,372,000	5,440
October	7,449	1,398,000	4,123
November	9,388	1,404,000	6,584
December	5,632	1,391,000	4,476
2008			
January	17,213	1,379,000	4,755
February	64,768	1,462,000	2,658
March	9,030	1,501,000	4,093
April	6,285	1,429,000	644
May	8,551	1,431,000	2,307
June	46,901	1,404,000	2,131
July	6,542	1,479,000	2,150
August	7,669	1,486,000	791
September	5,571	1,483,000	4,646
October	8,068	1,466,000	6,307
November	7,560	1,451,000	1,260
December	6,295	1,436,000	3,859
2009			
January	9,423	1,427,000	2,259
February	7,233	1,407,000	586
March	3,516	1,386,000	1,568
April	8,104	1,360,000	5,154
May	6,916	1,331,000	8,410
June	6,204	1,294,000	7,634
July	27,506	1,244,000	4,031

Insolvency Service: Manpower

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 196-7W, on the Insolvency Service: finance, how many people were employed in the Insolvency Service's investigation and enforcement unit in each of the last three years. [289330]

Ian Lucas: In each of the last three years, the number of people who were employed in the Insolvency Service's Investigation and Enforcement unit is:

As at 31 December 2006: [1]288 (114 Investigations, 96 Enforcement, 78 CIB)

As at 31 December 2007: [1]316 (135 Investigations, 102 Enforcement, 79 CIB)

As at 31 December 2008: [1]314 (129 Investigations, 111 Enforcement, 74 CIB)

As at 31 August 2009: [1]339

[1] Investigations and Enforcement was extended on 1 January 2009 to include Companies Investigation Branch (CIB). For the preceding years, figures show how many people would have been in IES, had it been extended then. Figures in brackets show how the total figure is made up.

Insolvency: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies were declared insolvent in Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency in each of the last five years. [291438]

Ian Lucas: Statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at sub-national level within England and Wales.

Meetings

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the Secretary of State's engagements were from 14 to 20 September 2009. [291679]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State undertook various internal and external engagements during this period.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many discussions the Secretary of State has had with representatives of the *(a)* automotive, *(b)* aerospace, *(c)* engineering, *(d)* fast moving consumer goods, *(e)* cleantech, *(f)* mail service and *(g)* the music industry since October 2008; on what dates such discussions took place; and who the industry representatives were on each such occasion. [291765]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2199.

Members: Correspondence

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 62W, on Members: correspondence, when he plans to reply to the letter of 20 February 2009 from the Member for Glasgow East on small businesses in Glasgow. [289626]

Mr. McFadden: The Permanent Secretary for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills responded to the hon. Member on 13 August.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 16 June 2009, on tied lease agreements. [289868]

Mr. McFadden: My hon. Friend, the Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs (Kevin Brennan) responded to the hon. Member on 28 July.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 62W, on Members: correspondence, when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 5 March, on funding for pubs. [289946]

Mr. McFadden: The permanent secretary, Simon Fraser, responded to the hon. Member on 24 August. I apologise for the delay.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 696W, on Members: correspondence, (1) when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Economic Competitiveness, Small Business and Enterprise will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 21 April 2009, on Royal Worcester porcelain; [289948]

(2) when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Economic Competitiveness, Small Business and Enterprise plans to reply to the letter of 21 April 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, on Royal Worcester porcelain. [292306]

Mr. McFadden: The Minister responded on 17 September. I apologise for the delay.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 61-2W, on Members: correspondence, when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 13 February 2009, on dormant companies; [289949]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, *Official Report*, column 61W, on Members: correspondence, when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the email of 13 February 2009 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, on dormant companies. [292297]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend, the Minister for Economic Competitiveness, Small Business and Enterprise, responded on 22 September. I apologise for the delay.

Millennium Compliance

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate the Government made of the proportion of UK companies which took steps to prepare for the millennium date change; [290687]

(2) whether his Department's predecessor undertook any review of its programme of preparation for the millennium date change. [290688]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The risk to the UK economy from the millennium bug was judged to lie predominantly with the 250,000 SME companies in the UK. The primary aim of the Action 2000 programme was therefore to communicate to this diverse group, and this strategy resulted in an overall readiness rate for the SME sector of 86 per cent.

This information is contained in a publication presented to Parliament in April 2000 entitled 'Modernising Government in Action: Realising the Benefits of Y2K' (Cm 4703), which also reviewed the Action 2000 programme more generally, in the context of learning lessons for future initiatives.

Ministerial Responsibility

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many days per week on average the Minister for Digital Britain spends in the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. [291742]

Mr. Timms: I discharge my ministerial duties from my BIS or HMT offices or elsewhere, as appropriate.

Misconduct Claims

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many misconduct claims relating to *(a)* pre-pack administrations and *(b)* other administrations there were in each of the last four years. [290057]

Ian Lucas: Insolvency legislation does not distinguish between "pre-pack" and other administrations. Disqualification claims against the directors of insolvent companies are not recorded by reference to specific insolvency procedures.

The Insolvency Service does not therefore hold the information requested.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many cars have been purchased under the scrappage scheme in *(a)* Merseyside and *(b)* Crosby to date. [289252]

Ian Lucas: Using data based on the locations of dealerships and data for scrappage transactions which have been completed and cars delivered, there have been 1312 completed scrappage transactions in Merseyside. There have been 29 completed transactions in the Crosby constituency.

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* loans and *(b)* loan guarantees have been given under the Automotive Assistance Programme; and what the monetary value is of each. [291221]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* No loans or guarantees have been made under the AAP yet.

BIS has already been in direct contact with nearly two-thirds of all companies who qualify for AAP assistance. To date, BIS officials have worked with over 20 companies on their formal expressions of interest.

BIS officials are in advanced negotiations with companies for applications with a value of some £1 billion driving projects worth nearly £2 billion, and there are discussions in place that have the potential to lead to awards of a further £1 billion.

The AAP is a long-term investment programme and the pace is being dictated by the companies who ask for time to prepare their business cases and negotiate financing with potential lenders.

The details of support to companies are commercially sensitive and subject to agreement. As a general rule, the Government's intention is to offer loan guarantees, though there is scope under the scheme to offer loans as well.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for funding under the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme have been refused because the applicant first registered the vehicle in Germany while serving in the armed forces; whether officials in his Department have had discussions with the Ministry of Defence on the inclusion of such vehicles in the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [291283]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* No applications for funding under the Vehicle Scrappage Scheme have been refused by BIS, provided British Forces Germany have been able to verify the date of registration of the vehicle on their registration database, and provided the other scheme criteria are met. This arrangement follows discussion and agreement between officials in my Department and the MOD.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from the automotive industry on the automotive assistance programme since its introduction. [291885]

Ian Lucas: BIS has been in regular contact with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders about the Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) as well as direct contact with over 90 automotive companies (including Tata Motors European Technical Centre where a £10 million loan has been announced). We have been working with over 20 companies on their formal expressions of interest.

National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals Research

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what partnerships by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals Research has entered into with animal welfare organisations since its establishment. [290371]

Mr. Lammy: The Government established the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) in 2004 to accelerate the development and application of the 3Rs. The NC3Rs works with research funders, universities, industry, regulatory authorities and animal welfare organisations to advance the 3Rs.

Since its inception, the NC3Rs has worked with the UK's leading animal welfare organisations; the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME), the RSPCA and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW).

This year, the NC3Rs held a joint meeting with FRAME to celebrate two important landmarks; FRAME's 40 anniversary and the 50 anniversary of the publication which first described the principles of the 3Rs. The NC3Rs, also in 2009, jointly published with the RSPCA guidance on the sharing and archiving of genetically altered mice. The centre is also a member of the UFAW 3Rs Liaison Group and over the last three years has provided £30,000 to support the group's goal of funding studentships to develop practical solutions that advance laboratory animal welfare.

National Skills Academy for Nuclear: Government Assistance

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has provided to the National Skills Academy for Nuclear since its creation; and what funding his Department plans to give to the academy in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [289792]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) manages the National Skills Academy (NSA) programme on behalf of BIS and leads the NSA selection and appraisal process. Once a NSA has been approved, and subject to LSC funding priorities, NSAs can draw on funding from the LSC for three years, matched by contributions from business. After this the NSA is expected to be self sustainable through financial investment from employers and income from the NSA's activities.

The NSA for Nuclear was officially launched by Government on the 31 January 2008, following approval of their three year business plan to take the NSA to the end of its development period in 2011.

The total LSC funding to date (including £504,431 paid so far this year) is £6,718,904. In 2009/10 the total planned funding (including that already provided) is £1,419,200 with £43,288 planned funding for 2010-11.

The NSA has also submitted applications for capital funding to the LSC for 2009-10 and 2010-11, which are currently being assessed.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for which non-departmental public bodies his Department is responsible; and what the budget of each is for 2009-10. [290087]

Mr. McFadden: The NDPBs for which the Department is responsible in 2009-10 and their budget are set out in the following table. Where the budget figures and BIS funding are different, this is because the bodies receive funding from other sources such as other Government Departments.

£ million

Name of body	*Department funding*	*Budget 2009-10*
Executive NDPBs		
Learning and Skills Council	4525	12,158
Higher Education Funding Council for England	7809	7809
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	814	814
Science and Technology Facilities Council	630	630
Medical Research Council	658	658
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	452	452
North West RDA	397	397
Advantage West Midlands (RDA)	295	295
Yorkshire Forward (RDA)	317	317
Natural Environment Research Council	408	408
Technology Strategy Board	254	323
One North East (RDA)	249	249
South West of England RDA	157	157
East Midlands RDA	160	160
South East England RDA	165	165
Economic and Social Research Council	170	170
East of England RDA	136	136
Arts and Humanities Research Council	104	104
UK CES (plus 23 SSCs)	89	89
Student Loans Company	81	81
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)	52.3	57
Consumer Focus	17	17
Competition Commission	21	21
UK Atomic Energy Authority	7	7
Design Council	6	
Investors in People UK (now part of UK CES)	5	5
Competition Service/ Competition Appeals Tribunal	4	2009-10. Includes Competition Appeals Tribunal
Local Better Regulation Office	4	4
Capital for Enterprise Ltd	2	2
Office for Fair Access	0.5	1
British Hallmarking Council	0	0
Construction Industry Training Board	0	Nil—funded from employer levy
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board	0	Nil—funded from employer levy
Film Industry Training Board for England and Wales	0	Nil—funded from employer levy
Hearing Aid Council	0	£1.5 funded by user fees
National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA)	0	Nil—funded by endowment from National Lottery
Simpler Trade Procedures Board (SITPRO)	0.76	0.76
Tribunal NDPBs		
Central Arbitration Committee	0.7	0.7
Copyright Tribunal	0.15	0.15
Insolvency Practitioners' Tribunal	0	0
Competition Appeals Tribunal/Competition Service	See competition service	See competition service
Advisory NDPBs		
Council for Science and Technology	0.15	0.15
Industrial Development Advisory Board	0	0
Low Pay Commission	1	1
Regional Industrial Development Boards	0	0
Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property	0	0
Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board	0	0
Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Board	0	0

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the *(a)* Aerospace Innovation and Growth Leadership Council, *(b)* Business Council for Britain, *(c)* Capital for Enterprise Advisory Board, *(d)* Environmental Innovations Advisory Group, *(e)* Ethnic Minority Business Task Force, *(f)* Ministerial Advisory Body on Manufacturing, *(g)* Motorsport Development UK Advisory Board, *(h)* Risk and Regulatory Advisory Council, *(i)* Vulnerable Workers Pilot Practitioners' Panel and *(j)* Women's Enterprise Task Force has met in each of the last four years; and when each body was established. [291902]

Ian Lucas: The information is as follows.

		Times met in:				
Name of body	*Established (date)*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Aerospace Innovation and Growth Leadership Council	November 2005	1	2	1	[1]—	[1]—
Business Council for Britain	June 2007	n/a	n/a	1	3	3
Capital for Enterprise Advisory Board	July 2005	5	12	11	3	[1]—

		Times met in:				
Name of body	*Established (date)*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Environmental Innovations Advisory Group	July 2003	4	1	1	[1]—	[1]—
Ethnic Minority Business Task Force	June 2007	n/a	n/a	2	3	3
Ministerial Advisory Group on Manufacturing	January 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	2
Motorsport Development UK Advisory Board	November 2003	4	4	4	4	1
Risk and Regulation Advisory Council	January 2008	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	6
Vulnerable Workers Pilot Practitioners' Panel	November 2006	n/a	1	2	1	[1]—
Women's Enterprise Task Force	November 2006	n/a	n/a	3	3	3

n/a = not applicable

[1] Ended

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) the Office of Fair Trading, (ii) the Postal Services Commission and (iii) UK Trade and Investment. [289846]

Mr. McFadden: The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) have published central Government Department's Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a building by building level. These can be found at:

www.ogc.gov.uk/government_delivery_display_energy_certificate_data.asp

It should be noted that the Postal Services Commission shares Hercules house in London with the Cabinet Office and UK Trade and Investment shares Kingsgate house in London with this Department. The Office of Fair Trading occupies Fleetbank house and it is listed under its name.

The table that OGC has published also includes DEC reference numbers for each building. These can be used to view each building's advisory report on the following website:

https://www.ndepcregister.com/home.html

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Government Assistance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were employed in each non-departmental public body which received funding from his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years. [289828]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has sponsorship responsibility for the non-departmental public bodies listed below. Information on staff numbers for the last five years can be found in their annual report which can be downloaded from the Internet.

The advisory NDPBs sponsored by the Department incur little or no expenditure and their administration is undertaken by Departmental officials, who have other responsibilities.

Executive Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs)

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)
British Hallmarking Council
Capital for Enterprise Ltd
Competition Commission
Competition Service
Consumer Focus
Construction Industry Training Board
Design Council
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
Film Industry Training Board for England and Wales
Hearing Aid Council
Higher Education Funding Council for England
Investors in People UK
SITPRO (Simplifying International Trade)
Learning and Skills Council
Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO)
National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts
Office for Fair Access
Student Loans Company Ltd
Technology Strategy Board
UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA)
UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)

Regional Development Agencies

Advantage West Midlands
South East England Development Agency
East of England Development Agency
South West of England Regional Development Agency
ONE North East
East Midlands Development Agency
Northwest Regional Development Agency
Yorkshire Forward

Research Councils

Arts and Humanities Research Council
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
Economic and Social Research Council
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
Medical Research Council
Natural Environment Research Council
Science and Technology Facilities Council

Advisory NDPB

Industrial Development Advisory Board
Low Pay Commission
Regional Industrial Development Boards
Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board
Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Advisory Board
Council for Science and Technology
Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property

Tribunal NDPBs

Central Arbitration Committee

Competition Appeal Tribunal
Insolvency Practitioners Tribunal
Copyright Tribunal

North West Development Agency: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report,* column 1124W, on the North West Development Agency: Public appointments, when the decision to appoint a new chair of the North West Development Agency was taken. [290375]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The decision to appoint Robert Hough as the chair of the North West Development Agency was made on 29 June. It was announced in Parliament on 9 July.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 July 2009, *Official Report,* column 1124W, on the North West Development Agency: public appointments, when he expects the new chair of the North West Development Agency to take up the appointment. [290378]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Robert Hough took up the position as chair of the North West Regional Development Agency on 17 August.

Official Hospitality

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Secretary of State received hospitality from representatives of the *(a)* automotive, *(b)* aerospace, *(c)* financial services, *(d)* fast moving consumer goods, *(e)* digital media, *(f)* mail service, *(g)* cleantech and *(h)* the music industry; on what dates such hospitality was provided; and who the industry representatives were in each case. [291764]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown) on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2197W.

Operational Management Support Contracts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value is of operational management support contracts his Department has outsourced to consultants. [290222]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills does not have a classification called operational management support.

In 2008-09 the Department spent £18,526,935 on consultancy.

Overseas Trade: Kazakhstan

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on encouraging trade and investment between the UK and Kazakhstan; and if he will make a statement. [291263]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) offers a full range of services for companies who wish to do business in Kazakhstan through trade and investment teams based in Astana and Atyrau. UKTI sponsored the Kazakh Growth Forum in June aimed at promoting business with Kazakhstan and contributed to the organisation of the visit by the lord mayor of London to Kazakhstan in late July this year. Next month my right hon. Friend the Minister for Higher Education and Intellectual Property (Mr. Lammy) will visit Kazakhstan to reinforce the UK's position as a preferred partner of Kazakhstan on higher and vocational education co-operation and represent the UK at the annual Kazakhstan International Oil and Gas Exhibition.

UKTI also provides support for the Kazakh British Trade and Industrial Council. The council identifies new business opportunities and also focuses on ways to tackle barriers to trade and improve the environment for business. The last meeting was in Astana in July.

Overseas Trade: Maldives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assistance his Department provides to businesses from the Maldives wishing to *(a)* invest in the UK and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much his Department made available for these purposes in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [289622]

Mr. McFadden: Businesses from any country, including the Maldives, are provided with assistance to invest in the UK or take part in joint ventures with UK companies either by UK Trade and Investment or the English Regional Development Agencies or Devolved Administrations. Full details of these services are available publicly on UKTI's website and the websites of the DAs and RDAs.

There are no specific funds for either investment or trade with any one market.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the value of *(a)* import and *(b)* exports of (i) goods and (ii) services between the Maldives and the United Kingdom was in each of the last 10 years. [289610]

Ian Lucas: The information is as follows.

(i) Overseas Trade Statistics data for UK trade in goods with the Maldives are shown in the following table.

£ million

	UK imports of goods from the Maldives	*UK exports of goods to the Maldives*
1999	5.5	4.9
2000	6.8	5.1
2001	6.4	5.0
2002	7.2	3.0
2003	6.8	5.9
2004	10.5	7.7
2005	11.7	8.9
2006	14.3	6.2

£ million

	UK imports of goods from the Maldives	*UK exports of goods to the Maldives*
2007	15.6	7.1
2008	13.0	8.5

(ii) Data on trade in services are not available for the full 10 years requested. Table 9.13 of the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book 2009" gives the following figures for UK trade in services with the Maldives

£ million

	UK imports of services from the Maldives	*UK exports of services to the Maldives*
2007	121	12
2008	127	9

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he *(a)* has taken in the last 12 months and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to increase trade between the United Kingdom and the Maldives; how much his Department has spent on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Maldives in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [289611]

Ian Lucas: The UK trade and investment team in Colombo which is responsible for trade and investment relations with the Maldives has undertaken a scoping mission to the Maldives and maintains regular contact with the Maldivian Ministry of Commerce. This scoping mission cost approximately £300. No other expenditure has been incurred in the last 12 months.

In the coming 12 months UKTI has arranged for the Maldivian high commissioner in London to give a presentation on opportunities in the market to its regional trade advisers.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department of each grade worked on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Maldives *(a)* in each year between 1998 and 2008 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [289612]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) does not deliver official services in the Maldives, but lobbying on behalf of British companies may be carried out on a case by case basis by the high commission in Colombo. It is not therefore possible to give a precise breakdown of staff time spent on trade promotion in the Maldives.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much trade with the Maldives contributed to gross domestic product in each of the last two years; what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Maldives on increasing trade between the UK and the Maldives; and if he will make a statement. [289623]

Ian Lucas: Due to the difficulty of differentiating between the impact of trade and other factors on growth, it is not possible to quantify precisely the impact of trade with another country on GDP. The value of UK exports of goods and services to the Maldives in each of 2007 and 2008 corresponded to about 0.001 per cent. of the value of UK GDP, and UK imports from the Maldives to about 0.01 per cent.

No formal discussions regarding increased bilateral trade have taken place. However my officials are in regular contact with the Maldives high commission and the UK trade and investment team in Colombo maintains regular contact with the Maldives Ministry of Commerce.

Overseas Trade: Sanctions

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proposed new trade sanctions against Iran the UK is supporting in international discussions. [291270]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is in discussion with its international partners to decide how to address Iran's failure, so far, to indicate a willingness to negotiate over its nuclear programme. Discussions on further measures, including trade sanctions, are in their early stages and form part of a confidential dialogue with close allies. It would not be appropriate to publicly disclose the precise details at this stage. Details will however be made available as soon as possible.

Parental Leave: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate has he made of the number of people in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire who took (i) paternity and (ii) maternity leave in the most recent period for which figures are available. [289413]

Mr. McFadden: The most recent estimates of take-up of maternity leave are based on Maternity Rights and Mother's Employment Decisions (published 2007). The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby between February and May 2006.

Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave.

Up-to-date estimates of fathers taking paternity leave are from the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. 93 per cent. of fathers took some time off around the time of the birth. Of the 93 per cent. who took some time off, 79 per cent. took paternity leave (The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners).

The Department does not collect data on take-up of maternity and paternity leave at constituency level.

Patents

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions in the last 10 years a conflict has arisen between the Patent Office and the European Patent Office over the registration of individual patents. [290079]

Mr. Lammy: A number of applicants file similar patent applications at both the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO). In cases where both applications result in granted patents valid in the UK, the IPO carries out a check to determine whether there is a conflict, that is whether both applications relate to the same invention. It will revoke a GB patent if an EP patent for the same invention is granted designating the UK. Over the past nine years, 1,148 GB patents were considered by the IPO for revocation in these circumstances (the data for the tenth year are not available). Many applicants amend one or other to remove any conflict, therefore avoiding revocation. There are over 500 cases where an application has been granted by one office and not the other, which is well below 1 per cent. of the total number of patents granted by the two offices. In many cases these applications are still pending before the other office. Determining precisely the outcome of the remainder, many of which will have been withdrawn for the applicant's own reasons, would involve information which is not held centrally and which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Polly Toynbee

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the Economic and Social Research Council has made to Ms Polly Toynbee in the last five years; and for what purposes. [290998]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* In the last five years the Economic and Social Research Council has made the following payments to Ms Polly Toynbee:

2004-05—£587.50 for an Evaluation Review of an ESRC Research Centre, involving three days work;

2005-06—£881.25 for an article for ESRC Society Today, the ESRC website. The article was 1,800 words long and involved two days work;

2009-10—£400 for chairing an ESRC lecture on Recession and the Green Economy.

Post Office Horizon System

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has received reports of errors in the Post Office Horizon system which have led to Postmasters or Postmistresses being falsely accused of fraud; and if he will make a statement. [291675]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has received no such reports. Any issues relating to the Horizon system are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Post Office Ltd.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to seek to increase the level of profit made by Post Office Limited. [290428]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are keen for Post Office Ltd. to develop its range of products and services and the shareholder executive in this Department is working with the company to examine the scope and opportunities for this. However, it is for the company to determine a business and commercial strategy to increase its profitability.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has made an assessment of the length of time for which the Network Subsidy Payment or a successor arrangement will be required to subsidise Post Office Limited. [290429]

Mr. McFadden: The Government recognise that there will be a continuing need for subsidy payments to support the non-commercial part of the post office network beyond March 2011 when the present funding package comes to an end.

Post Office Ltd.: Royal Mail

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to increase the availability and clarity of information on the revenue received from Post Office Limited by the Royal Mail Group. [290515]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. prepares a statutory report and accounts annually and these are publicly available through Companies House. As these indicate, Post Office Ltd. meets the full costs of employment of its staff who are all seconded from Royal Mail Group. In 2008-09 these costs totalled £293 million. In addition, Post Office Ltd. pays its share of the Royal Mail Group's central costs to its parent company.

Post Offices

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the re-opening of Post Office branches in areas in which such branches had closed. [290340]

Mr. McFadden: Government policy is to maintain a sustainable nationwide network of around 11,500 post offices and in 2007 committed funding to 2011 in support of this policy. Decisions on the opening or re-opening of individual post office branches are an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. The company has an established framework for dialogue with local authorities and community groups interested in funding continued service provision where a branch has closed. In such circumstances, Post Office Ltd will need to ensure that this does not adversely affect the viability of the local network of post offices.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Post Office branches are required to meet his Department's access criteria for Post Office branches. [290341]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. estimates that the minimum size of network necessary to meet the access criteria is around 7,500 offices but it is Government policy to maintain a sustainable network of around 11,500 post offices. The £1.7 billion funding package announced in May 2007 supports the network at that level to 2011 and the Government recognise that there will be a continuing need for network subsidy payments beyond 2011.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Government has had recent discussions with Post Office Limited on future numbers of Post Office branches. [290342]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers have regular discussions with Post Office Ltd. about a wide range of issues including network size. Government policy is to maintain a sustainable nationwide network of around 11,500 post offices and the Government have stated that they will not support a future programme of closures.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the use of Post Office services by Government departments. [290427]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are keen for the Post Office to develop their Government Services work and have an established mechanism for aiding this through a cross-Whitehall committee chaired by the Secretary of State for Business. The Government have shown their commitment to using the Post Office to provide services for Government through the award of the Post Office Card Account contract in November 2008, as well as the deal in March 2009 with the DVLA to allow the capture of biometric data (photographs and signatures) for the 10-year renewal of driving licences at 750 Post Offices around the country.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* Crown post offices, *(b)* full branches, *(c)* mobile outreach services, *(d)* hosted outreach services, *(e)* partner services and *(f)* home services branches there are in the Post Office branch network. [291738]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Post Office branches that have closed temporarily since the end of the Network Change Programme have *(a)* re-opened with the same hours, *(b)* re-opened with reduced hours, *(c)* re-opened with increased hours, *(d)* not yet re-opened, *(e)* been replaced by an outreach service and *(f)* been closed permanently. [291739]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold the information requested. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in which postcode districts the Post Office branch network does not meet the access criteria adopted under the Network Change Programme. [291740]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked Alan Cook, managing director of Post Office Ltd., to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the merits of establishing a state-owned post bank based upon the Post Office network. [289712]

Mr. McFadden: The idea of a state-owned Post Bank as proposed by, among others, the Post Bank Coalition, is an interesting contribution to the debate on Post Office financial services. The Government's priorities with respect to Post Office personal financial services are that the Post Office grows this important part of its business and continues to increase the range of products available across the network. This is an aim that the Business and Enterprise Select Committee report on 'Post Offices—Securing Their Future' supports. Post Office Ltd is working hard on this and has recently announced that it aims to launch a current account next year.

Post Offices: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post office branches in Birmingham Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency have been closed in each year since 2004; and how many such branches have been replaced by Outreach services. [291565]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not hold the information requested. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Friend and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many post office branches there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 30 years. [289408]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL).

I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what changes are being made to the *(a)* total budget and *(b)* capital budget of each regional development agency as a consequence of the policies announced in the Draft Legislative programme 2009-10 in each year for which information is available. [289549]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Changes to budgets, resulting from new legislation, would normally be made once the Bills are enacted. We do not envisage any likely changes to RDA budgets as a consequence of the policies announced in the Draft Legislative programme 2009-10.

Regional Development Agencies: Manpower

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* black and minority ethnic people and *(b)* women have served as board members of a regional development agency (RDA); and what percentage of the board of each RDA each group represented in each year since 2001. [291760]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the number of women and black and minority ethnic people on the Regional Development Boards since 2001 and shown as a percentage of the Board.

For new appointments up to April 2009 BIS have 33.5 per cent. women and 4. per cent. black and ethnic minorities on their boards overall. BIS targets by 2011 are 50 per cent. board members to be women and 11 per cent. ethnic minority.

Women

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*	
RDA	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*
AWM	3	23	2	13	3	20	4	27	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20	3	20
EEDA	3	25	5	33	5	33	6	40	6	40	4	27	3	20	4	27	5	33
EMDA	4	29	6	40	6	40	3	20	3	20	4	27	3	20	4	27	4	27
NWDA	4	31	4	27	4	27	4	27	5	33	5	33	5	33	5	33	4	27
One NE	3	23	5	33	6	40	6	40	6	40	5	33	5	33	5	33	5	33
SEEDA	5	33	4	27	4	27	3	20	3	20	3	20	4	27	3	20	4	27
SWRDA	3	23	4	27	4	27	5	33	5	33	5	33	6	40	5	33	5	33
YF	4	31	6	40	5	33	6	40	6	40	6	40	6	40	6	40	5	33
Total	29	27	36	30	37	31	37	31	37	31	35	29	35	29	35	29	35	29

Ethnic Minority

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*	
RDA	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*	*No*	*%*
AWIW	2	15	3	20	2	13	2	13	1	7	1	7	1	7	0	0	0	0
EEDA	0	0	2	13	2	13	1	7	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
EM DA	0	0	2	13	2	13	1	7	2	13	2	13	1	7	1	7	1	7
NWDA	0	0	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
One NE	1	8	2	13	2	13	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SEEDA	0	0	1	7	1	7	2	13	2	13	2	13	2	13	2	13	2	13
SWRDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YF	1	8	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	1	7	2	13
Total	4	4	12	10	11	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	5	4	4	3	6	5

The London Development Agency is not included in the above statistics as it is the responsibility of the Mayor of London and not the Minister.

Regional Development Agencies: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid in remuneration to *(a)* the Chief Executive and *(b)* each board member of each regional development agency, including benefits in kind in each of the last three years. [277994]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* The break down of the total financial value of the remuneration made to *(a)* RDA chief executives; and *(b)* the board members of each RDA, including benefits in kind, in each of the last three years is detailed by RDA in the tables (the information excludes London, which is the responsibility of the Mayor). The RDA chairs details are identified separately to the other board members as their remuneration entitlements are different.

The figures have been collected by each RDA and show:

For the chief executive and RDA chairs:

> the total cash remuneration = basic salary (before tax) + performance related bonus (bonuses are awarded based on performance against objectives delivered in the previous year); and
>
> total remuneration package = total cash remuneration + pension + benefits in kind (where the RDA has benefits in kind in place).

For the board members:

> the total remuneration = basic remuneration paid. Board members are only paid a remuneration figure agreed by the SoS in accordance with the RDA Act 1998. These posts do not attract bonuses, pensions or benefits in kind.

Copies of the tables will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agency: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the annual budget is for each year to 2011 of each *(a)* national and *(b)* UKTI programme operated by regional developement agencies and not included in the Solutions for Business portfolio. [291355]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The RDA total budget for 2009-10 is £2.253 billion and the budget for 2010-11 is £1.762 billion. RDAs are in the process of producing revised corporate plans showing how this will be spent in each region. The amount of money spent by each agency on Solutions for Business products and on other types of intervention will vary according to local and regional need for particular forms of business support and the wider economic context.

Renewable Energy: Government Assistance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of grant assistance given by his Department to developers of marine renewables technology in the last five years; [291698]

(2) how much funding his Department has provided to developers of marine renewable energy technology in the last five years. [291699]

Ian Lucas: In the last five years, the Department's funding to developers of marine renewable energy technology has primarily been delivered through the Technology Strategy Board (TSB). Support for collaborative R and D provided by the TSB to developers of wave and tidal renewable energy technologies in the last five years is as follows:

	£000
2003-04	5,019
2004-05	1,235
2005-06	1,655
2006-07	2,258
2007-08	2,580
2008-09	5,131

BIS also supports developers indirectly through investments via the Energy Technologies Institute and the research councils:

In January the ETI announced £11 million for ReDAPT, to demonstrate the viability of a 1 MW tidal turbine, and expects to announce further marine projects with a potential value of £10 million during the next quarter.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to monitor the use by developers of marine renewables technology of financial assistance provided by his Department in the last five years. [290804]

Ian Lucas: The Department's support to developers of marine renewable energy technology is delivered through its delivery partners.

Tidal energy projects funded by the Technology Strategy Board are monitored by a dedicated monitoring officer who is technically qualified to work in this specialist area and monitoring is carried out against:

Stated project outputs, deliverables and milestones.

The original and revised project plans, and

Budgeted expenditure versus total grant.

Projects are monitored monthly with formal reports furnished on a quarterly basis.

Projects supported by the Energy Technologies Institute involve:

Monthly reporting of progress (financial and non financial)

Payment against deliverables only (not effort) with clear acceptance criteria

Variations approved only as contract variations

Projects reviewed at significant key stages (stage gates; go/no go) checking technology, financial progress and integrity of business case, and

Annual reports on project progress.

Royal Mail

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last five years. [290065]

Mr. McFadden: During the last five financial years, this Department and its predecessors spent the following on Royal Mail services provided to buildings on its central London estate:

	£000
2004-05	215.5
2005-06	194.1
2006-07	119.2
2007-08	118.5
2008-09	137.9

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to secure the *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term viability of Royal Mail as a commercial enterprise. [290343]

Mr. McFadden: The Government consider that the implementation of the Hooper review recommendations as a package is the best way forward to secure Royal Mail's future. We will return to this package once market conditions are right to secure a suitable partner for Royal Mail Group Limited. In the meantime, the Government are looking to the management and the unions to take forward the modernisation of the company. We encourage both the management and the unions to work together to achieve this.

Royal Mail: Meetings

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions the Secretary of State has met Royal Mail trustees to discuss the Royal Mail pension plan since 1 July 2009. [290344]

Mr. McFadden: The Secretary of State has met the Chair of the Royal Mail Pension Fund Trustees once since 1 July.

Skillfast-UK

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of Skillfast-UK. [290146]

Kevin Brennan: Skillfast-UK is an independent skills body that is currently licensed as a sector skills council. Skillfast-UK was recently assessed by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills against the standards set out in the relicensing framework for sector skills councils. The UK Commission recommended to Government that Skillfast-UK had not met the standard required of an SSC, with a proposal for consultation with the industry to identify options for future coverage of the sector. Government are in the process of considering the UK Commission's recommendation for Skillfast-UK. In the event that an SSC did not have its licence renewed by Government, it would be asked to work with the UK Commission to ensure that the skills needs of the sector in question continue to be met. This would include access for employers to high quality labour market information about skills, and the continued development of national occupational standards that underpin qualifications that meet both employer and individual needs.

Skillset: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Skillset on the future of the creative industries in Yorkshire and the Humber. [290145]

Kevin Brennan: Since taking up post as Minister for State for Skills I have not had any discussions with Skillset about the future of the creative industries in Yorkshire and the Humber. Skillset is the Sector Skills Council for the broadcasting, photo imaging, audio visual and publishing sector. In a recent assessment by the National Audit Office, Skillset was recognised for its commitment to working across the regions in England.

Strategic Investment Fund

Charles Hendry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount of carbon dioxide emissions that will be abated as a result of the elements of the Strategic Investment Fund earmarked for low-carbon projects. [285038]

Mr. McFadden: It has not been possible to estimate the impact of projects supported by the Strategic Investment Fund on future carbon dioxide emissions.

The Strategic Investment Fund is supporting the research, development and demonstration of key low carbon technologies in areas including wind and marine energy and electric vehicles, which if viable will support delivery of the carbon reduction targets to which the UK is committed. Wherever possible their potential to contribute to long-term abatement was taken into account.

The Strategic Investment Fund was established to support advanced industrial projects of strategic importance, consistent with the vision set out in "New Industry, New Jobs", and the UK low-carbon industrial strategy. The latter, published on 15 July 2009, set out the first investments from the £250 million of funding allocated for low carbon economic development.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the £750 million Strategic Investment Fund announced in the 2009 Budget has been allocated to individual projects; and how much has been paid from the fund to eligible projects. [289833]

Mr. McFadden: Over £700 million of the £750 million within the Strategic Investment Fund has already been allocated, or is earmarked for specific projects and investments. While such allocations have been made, the money has not in itself been drawn down as claims as they will either be paid in arrears, or on the basis of future calls.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value of payments to businesses from the is to date; what the average monetary value of such payments is; and how many *(a)* life sciences and *(b)* other businesses have received such payments. [291811]

Mr. McFadden: Over £700 million of the £750 million within the Strategic Investment Fund has already been allocated, or is earmarked for specific projects in support of the vision set out in "New Industry, New Jobs" framework document. The remaining £50 million will be allocated to projects by the end of October.

While commitments to fund investments have been made, the money has not in itself been drawn down as claims as they will either be paid in arrears, or on the basis of future calls. There is no average monetary value of such payments at this stage due to the differing values and timing of individual calls on the SIF. No businesses have received specific payments for life sciences, at this stage.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much on average a *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK citizen pays in tuition fees to study a veterinary science degree course at a university in England. [291536]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not held by the Department.

In the academic year 2009-10 students from the UK and EU will pay up to £3,225 in tuition fees to study veterinary science degree courses. Total expenditure over the length of their course will depend on whether their institution charges the maximum fee, and on the length of the course. Loans are available to eligible students to cover the full cost of tuition fees.

Tuition fees for international students from outside of the EU are unregulated and therefore HEIs are free to set fee levels as they see fit.

Students: Loans

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people of each age group resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire had not repaid their student loans on the latest date for which figures are available. [289415]

Mr. Lammy: Borrowers become liable to repay their loans in the April after they leave their course (the Statutory Repayment Due Date). After that date those with earnings of over £15,000 will repay, usually by deductions from salary. Those liable to repay who have not yet made a repayment will include borrowers whose earnings are below the repayment threshold, have gone on to further study or are doing voluntary work.

Income-contingent loan borrowers, Hertfordshire, March 2009[1]

Age[2]	*Numbers who have not yet made a repayment*	*Numbers who have made a repayment*	*Total*
Less than 20	20	10	30

Income-contingent loan borrowers, Hertfordshire, March 2009[1]

Age[2]	*Numbers who have not yet made a repayment*	*Numbers who have made a repayment*	*Total*
20 to 24	2,180	4,790	6,970
25 to 29	1,910	11,780	13,690
30 to 39	530	1,200	1,730
40 to 49	260	480	750
50 and over	100	190	290
Total	5,000	18,450	23,440

[1] Table covers income-contingent loan borrowers past SRDD with known repayment status, the local authority in which the borrower was resident at the time of application for student finance; this does not indicate current residence. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Age at the end of the last tax year for which repayment/non-repayment information has been posted, mainly end of tax year 2007/08.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Reliable information is not available at constituency or district level.

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been deducted from the salaries of individuals in each income group resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire for student loan repayments in the last 12 months. [289416]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows:

Student loans PAYE deductions, Hertfordshire, tax year 2007-08 (provisional)[1]

Earnings in tax year 2007-08	*Numbers who have had a deduction from earnings under PAYE*	*Amount deducted from earnings under PAYE*	*Average amount deducted*
Less than £15,000	3,210	430,000	130
£15,000 to £20,000	3,200	970,000	300
£20,000 to £25,000	3,720	2,470,000	660
£25,000 to £30,000	2,710	2,880,000	1,060
£30,000 to £35,000	1,420	2,060,000	1,450
£35,000 to £40,000	740	1,340,000	1,800
Over £40,000	1,060	3,110,000	2,920
Total	16,070	13,250,000	820

[1] Tables cover deductions by PAYE from income-contingent loans. Excludes Self Assessment deductions. Tables cover deductions which HMRC has notified to SLC by 31 March 2009. There will be further deductions notified for tax year 2007-08. The table shows the local authority where the borrower was resident at the time of application for student finance; this does not indicate current residence.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Deductions from salaries are made when the borrowers' income is above £15,000 per year, £1,250 per month or £288 per week.

Reliable information is not available at constituency or district level.

Temporary Employment: EC Law

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* businesses and *(b)* other organisations his Department has consulted in relation to the implementation of EU Directive 2008/104/EC on Temporary Agency Work. [290425]

Mr. McFadden: The Department's forthcoming response to the consultation, which closed on 31 July, will include a list of the businesses and other organisations who responded publicly.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable has been set for the implementation in the UK of EU Directive 2008/104/EC on Temporary Agency Work. [290426]

Mr. McFadden: We are committed to ensuring that the implementing regulations are on the statute book in the current Parliament.

The Government's forthcoming response to the Consultation, which closed on 31 July, will be published shortly.

Tesco: Meetings

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Minister for Trade, Investment and Business has met any representative of Tesco plc since relinquishing a non-executive directorship with that organisation; and if he will make a statement. [290263]

Ian Lucas: The Minister met Sir Terry Leahy on 18 June and has communicated with him through the Business Council for Britain.

Textiles: Government Assistance

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to assist the development of levels of skills in relation to the fashion and textile sector. [290148]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are committed to supporting skills development in the fashion and textile sector. Skillfast-UK, which is the Sector Skills Council for the sector, sets the overall strategy for skills and engages directly with employers about their skill needs. Skillfast-UK provides labour market information for employers, and is engaged in the development of qualifications. Skillfast-UK is also running a Women and Work Sector Pathways Initiative project to develop the skills of 600 women in 2009-10 in relation to the fashion and textile sector. The Fashion Retail Academy promotes fashion retail as a career, and delivers a flow of young people to the industry with the fundamental skills required to work in the sector. Government are also providing funding through Sector Compacts to tackle skills shortages in key sectors, including fashion and textiles.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on possible revision of the Warwick agreement arrangement with the trades unions. [250237]

Mr. McFadden: The Labour Party's policy making structures are a matter for the Labour Party.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to negotiate a revised Warwick agreement arrangement with the trades unions. [250293]

Mr. McFadden: The Labour party's policy making structures are a matter for the Labour party.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology was used to set the initial targets for the Train to Gain programme. [290269]

Kevin Brennan: Initial Train to Gain targets were set out in the Learning and Skills Council's 2006 Annual Statement of Priorities. They were based on contributing to the PSA—public service agreement—target to reduce by at least 40 per cent. the number of adults in the workplace without a Level 2 or equivalent qualification by 2010, and an assessment of the Employer Training Pilots that preceded the start of the programme in April 2006. The assessment included the expected annual cost of the programme and the planned number of employers taking part per annum.

These targets have subsequently been updated in the LSC's 2007 Annual Statement of Priorities, and reflect the broader skills aim set out in the 2006 Leitch Review: to increase the proportion of adults holding Level 2 qualifications to 90 per cent. by 2020.

As Train to Gain is a demand-led programme, learner volumes and annual spend may differ from initial projections, depending on levels of employer demand. Regular reports are received from the LSC—Learning and Skills Council—in order to enable the Department to monitor ongoing levels of performance.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations his Department has received from *(a)* the Learning and Skills Council and *(b)* others on the adequacy of the Train to Gain programme; and when such representations were received. [291463]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has regular and ongoing contact with the Learning and Skills Council regarding all aspects of Train to Gain delivery, and receive monthly performance reports and updated financial information.

The Department also receives frequent correspondence and other representations from colleges, employers, members of the public and other interested parties on a variety of skills policies including Train to Gain.

Train to Gain Programme: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average cost to the public purse of a job created under the Train to Gain programme was in the latest period for which figures are available. [290232]

Kevin Brennan: Train to Gain is a service to help employers improve the skills of their existing employees. It is not a programme that is designed to create jobs.

Training: Construction

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital funding was originally allocated to each National Construction College by the Learning and Skills Council for 2009-10; and how much of that funding has since been withdrawn from each college. [288699]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* No capital funding has been allocated to either of the National Construction Colleges for 2009-10, and as such, no funding has since been withdrawn.

Initial approval for funding from the FE capital funding stream had been granted to the Birchen Newton proposal in autumn last year. However, following the Learning and Skills Council's recent FE capital prioritisation process, the proposal was unsuccessful, and has not been granted final approval.

As with every college, the LSC will discuss with the college on how the project can move forward.

UK Innovation Investment Fund

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the liability his Department would incur in the event of a confirmed downturn in the performance of the UK high technology investment fund; what criteria would be used in determining whether such a liability had to be paid; and if he will make a statement. [289939]

Mr. McFadden: The UK Innovation Investment Fund is a 10-year Fund of Funds. The Government are committing £150 million of tax payers' investment to the UK Innovation Investment Fund and we expect to leverage significant investment from the private sector.

We aim to appoint an experienced Fund of Funds manager in December to manage the fund and make investments in underlying technology funds with the expertise and track record to invest directly in technology businesses. The Government and Capital for Enterprise Limited issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) from prospective Fund of Funds manager(s) on 3 August. The RFP sets out the Government's expectation that private and public funding should be invested on a pari-passu basis and that private investors should not receive advantageous terms. Bidders are asked to set out their investment strategies and demonstrate how they will raise money from private sector investors.

It will not possible to say any more about the nature or terms of investments into underlying funds until an investment mandate is awarded.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria will apply to the provision of funding to businesses from the UK Innovation Investment Fund; when funding will begin from the Fund; what steps he has taken to inform small and medium-sized enterprises about the fund; and whether he has set a target for the time between applying for funding and receiving funding. [291631]

Mr. Lammy: The fund will operate on a Fund of Funds structure which means it will not invest directly in companies, but rather invest in a small number of specialist technology funds that have the expertise and track record to invest directly in companies. The fund will only invest in those companies that have strong survival and growth prospects.

We hope to announce the appointment of a Fund of Funds Manager by Christmas 2009 and anticipate that the Fund will start investing soon after that.

There have been a number of events to promote the fund to all interested parties and there will be further events during autumn 2009 and beyond.

The Department wishes to see the fund supporting firms as soon as possible.

However, it will be down to the Fund of Funds Manager(s) to allocate funding in the most appropriate manner.

Unemployment: Young People

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 were not in education, employment or training in *(a)* each local authority area and *(b)* each region in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available. [289275]

Kevin Brennan Table 1 and table 2 as follows show the number and percentage of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by Government Office Region. These estimates are from quarterly Labour Force survey (LFS) data and are rounded to the nearest 1000.

Table 3 shows the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by local education authority (LEA). These estimates are from the Annual Population survey (APS) which covers the period January to December. Due to the small populations of local authority areas, we have used the APS (which has a larger sample) to breakdown the estimates by LEA (larger geographical area). This enables us to provide more robust estimates.

Please note that even for regions, sample sizes can be small and these estimates are subject to sampling variability. Confidence intervals, which indicate how accurate estimates are, are between 2 and 3 percentage points for these regional estimates, and between 3 and 10 percentage points for these local education authority estimates. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand and estimates denoted with a '*' means less than 1000 young people are estimated to be NEET in that area.

[1] Age used is the respondents academic age, which is their age at the preceding 31 August.

Table 1: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by region

	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	Q1 2009	Q2 2009
England	970,000	808,000	828,000	833,000	909,000	782,000	810,000	840,000	973,000	857,000	935,000	959,000
North East	53,000	45,000	48,000	47,000	52,000	49,000	52,000	56,000	65,000	54,000	57,000	69,000
North West	140,000	120,000	127,000	134,000	144,000	120,000	136,000	139,000	151,000	142,000	156,000	155,000
Yorks and Humber	118,000	95,000	97,000	92,000	105,000	82,000	75,000	101,000	119,000	92,000	107,000	121,000
East Midlands	81,000	65,000	72,000	66,000	81,000	70,000	69,000	71,000	86,000	68,000	69,000	75,000
West Midlands	112,000	96,000	111,000	107,000	111,000	93,000	95,000	98,000	119,000	105,000	126,000	131,000
East of England	92,000	77,000	76,000	84,000	92,000	74,000	87,000	77,000	82,000	79,000	83,000	82,000
London	184,000	148,000	119,000	130,000	136,000	123,000	129,000	132,000	149,000	131,000	127,000	120,000
South East	115,000	93,000	107,000	112,000	125,000	116,000	104,000	111,000	131,000	122,000	130,000	142,000
South West	74,000	68,000	70,000	61,000	63,000	56,000	63,000	55,000	71,000	63,000	78,000	66,000

Table 2: Percentage of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by region

	Q3 2006	Q4 2006	Q1 2007	Q2 2007	Q3 2007	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	Q1 2009	Q2 2009
England	17	14	14	14	15	13	14	14	16	14	16	16
North East	17	14	15	15	16	15	16	17	20	17	18	21
North West	17	14	15	16	17	14	16	16	18	17	18	18
Yorks and Humber	18	14	14	14	16	12	11	15	18	14	16	19
East Midlands	16	12	14	13	15	13	13	13	16	13	13	14
West Midlands	18	15	18	17	18	15	15	16	19	16	20	21
East of England	16	13	13	14	15	12	14	13	13	13	14	13
London	21	17	14	15	16	14	15	15	16	15	14	13
South East	13	11	12	12	14	13	12	12	14	13	14	15
South West	14	12	13	11	11	10	11	10	13	11	14	12

Table 3: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by local education authority

	2006		2007		2008	
	NEET	Percentage	NEET	Percentage	NEET	Percentage
England	849,000	15	850,000	14	857,000	14
Barking and Dagenham	6,000	25	4,000	20	4,000	20
Barnet	3,000	7	1,000	4	7,000	19
Barnsley	5,000	19	6,000	23	5,000	19
Bath and North East Somerset	3,000	10	2,000	9	2,000	9
Bedfordshire	7,000	15	7,000	16	4,000	8
Bexley	4,000	17	3,000	12	3,000	14
Birmingham	30,000	19	30,000	20	29,000	20
Blackburn with Darwen	3,000	19	3,000	21	2,000	16
Blackpool	4,000	22	3,000	20	2,000	12
Bolton	5,000	14	5,000	14	4,000	12
Bournemouth	2,000	7	2,000	11	3,000	14
Bracknell Forest	1,000	11	1,000	11	2,000	13
Bradford	12,000	18	12,000	18	9,000	14
Brent	7,000	22	5,000	17	4,000	14
Brighton and Hove	4,000	11	5,000	13	4,000	12
Bristol	7,000	13	8,000	15	9,000	14
Bromley	5,000	18	5,000	16	5,000	16
Buckinghamshire	5,000	11	4,000	10	5,000	11
Bury	3,000	17	3,000	19	3,000	14
Calderdale	4,000	17	3,000	13	4,000	18
Cambridgeshire	5,000	8	6,000	9	8,000	11
Camden	4,000	16	3,000	12	3,000	10
Cheshire	6,000	8	7,000	9	9,000	13
Cornwall	5,000	10	7,000	13	5,000	10
Coventry	6,000	14	6,000	15	9,000	19
Croydon	2,000	7	6,000	15	6,000	16
Cumbria	7,000	16	6,000	12	2,000	5
Darlington	2,000	20	3,000	24	1,000	12
Derby	4,000	16	5,000	16	4,000	13
Derbyshire	14,000	19	13,000	16	10,000	14
Devon	9,000	12	11,000	13	5,000	6
Doncaster	6,000	20	5,000	14	8,000	22
Dorset	2,000	5	4,000	11	3,000	8
Dudley	4,000	11	4,000	14	8,000	19
Durham	13,000	21	8,000	13	11,000	17
Ealing	5,000	15	6,000	16	5,000	13
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,000	14	4,000	11	5,000	14
East Sussex	4,000	9	7,000	15	8,000	17
Enfield	5,000	19	4,000	14	3,000	12
Essex	16,000	11	19,000	13	21,000	14
Gateshead	4,000	18	3,000	15	4,000	21
Gloucestershire	9,000	16	6,000	10	6,000	10
Greenwich	6,000	22	6,000	26	4,000	16
Hackney	5,000	22	4,000	17	5,000	20
Halton	2,000	15	2,000	16	3,000	23
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,000	14	2,000	11	2,000	12
Hampshire	14,000	11	19,000	14	16,000	11
Haringey	8,000	26	4,000	15	6,000	20
Harrow	*	*	2,000	11	3,000	13
Hartlepool	2,000	23	2,000	26	3,000	27
Havering	2,000	9	3,000	12	2,000	7
Herefordshire	2,000	10	2,000	12	2,000	12
Hertfordshire	15,000	14	13,000	12	14,000	13
Hillingdon	4,000	15	6,000	18	4,000	15
Hounslow	5,000	16	5,000	16	6,000	22
Isle of Wight	2,000	17	2,000	13	2,000	18
Islington	4,000	20	4,000	15	3,000	14
Kensington and Chelsea	3,000	21	2,000	9	3,000	16
Kent	23,000	16	24,000	17	25,000	17
Kingston upon Hull	6,000	18	8,000	20	8,000	18
Kingston upon Thames	3,000	17	2,000	11	2,000	11
Kirklees	9,000	19	9,000	19	8,000	19

Table 3: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by local education authority

	2006		2007		2008	
	NEET	*Percentage*	*NEET*	*Percentage*	*NEET*	*Percentage*
Knowsley	4,000	20	4,000	22	5,000	20
Lambeth	5,000	17	5,000	15	4,000	12
Lancashire	19,000	14	17,000	12	21,000	14
Leeds	11,000	10	16,000	13	20,000	15
Leicester	7,000	14	7,000	15	9,000	18
Leicestershire	6,000	9	6,000	9	9,000	14
Lewisham	5,000	18	6,000	20	5,000	19
Lincolnshire	11,000	16	10,000	14	10,000	13
Liverpool	10,000	16	11,000	17	10,000	15
Luton	4,000	18	4,000	17	4,000	16
Manchester	10,000	13	12,000	15	13,000	16
Medway	5,000	16	4,000	12	5,000	18
Merton	3,000	13	3,000	14	3,000	15
Middlesbrough	4,000	22	4,000	21	5,000	24
Milton Keynes	3,000	16	4,000	14	2,000	9
Newcastle upon Tyne	5,000	10	5,000	11	6,000	10
Newham	6,000	18	7,000	18	4,000	12
Norfolk	11,000	14	12,000	14	15,000	17
North East Lincolnshire	4,000	23	3,000	17	4,000	21
North Lincolnshire	3,000	15	3,000	18	2,000	15
North Somerset	1,000	7	*	*	2,000	7
North Tyneside	4,000	18	4,000	17	4,000	20
North Yorkshire	6,000	11	6,000	9	7,000	12
Northamptonshire	11,000	14	11,000	13	12,000	14
Northumberland	4,000	14	6,000	17	4,000	11
Nottingham	8,000	15	8,000	14	7,000	12
Nottinghamshire	12,000	13	10,000	11	12,000	14
Oldham	7,000	24	6,000	25	7,000	25
Oxfordshire	7,000	9	11,000	14	6,000	8
Peterborough	4,000	20	5,000	22	4,000	20
Plymouth	5,000	13	5,000	15	3,000	8
Poole	2,000	15	1,000	10	2,000	12
Portsmouth	4,000	15	3,000	9	3,000	8
Reading	2,000	15	2,000	11	2,000	11
Redbridge	6,000	22	4,000	16	4,000	14
Redcar and Cleveland	3,000	17	3,000	19	4,000	27
Richmond upon Thames	3,000	22	2,000	14	2,000	12
Rochdale	6,000	22	3,000	14	3,000	14
Rotherham	7,000	21	5,000	19	7,000	24
Rutland	*	*	*	*	*	*
Salford	5,000	20	4,000	16	6,000	22
Sandwell	8,000	23	8,000	24	9,000	26
Sefton	5,000	15	5,000	16	7,000	19
Sheffield	12,000	16	12,000	15	13,000	16
Shropshire	3,000	11	4,000	15	3,000	10
Slough	3,000	18	2,000	15	2,000	14
Solihull	2,000	12	3,000	16	4,000	18
Somerset	8,000	15	8,000	13	7,000	13
South Gloucestershire	2,000	7	2,000	9	2,000	7
South Tyneside	4,000	24	3,000	15	3,000	16
Southampton	6,000	14	6,000	18	4,000	10
Southend on Sea	2,000	17	3,000	20	3,000	20
Southwark	7,000	21	6,000	18	6,000	16
St Helens	4,000	19	5,000	26	4,000	21
Staffordshire	8,000	10	10,000	12	11,000	11
Stockport	4,000	11	4,000	10	4,000	13
Stockton-on-Tees	4,000	19	5,000	18	4,000	18
Stoke-on-Trent	7,000	20	7,000	20	5,000	19
Suffolk	10,000	15	8,000	11	11,000	16
Sunderland	5,000	14	5,000	14	6,000	15
Surrey	9,000	9	12,000	11	8,000	8
Sutton	3,000	17	4,000	23	1,000	8
Swindon	2 000	13	1,000	8	3,000	16

Table 3: People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training by local education authority

	2006		2007		2008	
	NEET	*Percentage*	*NEET*	*Percentage*	*NEET*	*Percentage*
Tameside	5,000	18	6,000	20	6,000	23
Telford and Wrekin	4,000	20	3,000	15	3,000	15
Thurrock	2,000	17	2,000	12	3,000	17
Torbay	2,000	18	2,000	14	2,000	12
Tower Hamlets	10,000	24	9,000	25	7,000	22
Trafford	4,000	16	3,000	12	3,000	13
Wakefield	7,000	19	8,000	17	7,000	16
Walsall	7,000	21	8,000	24	5,000	17
Waltham Forest	4,000	14	5,000	16	6,000	18
Wandsworth	2,000	8	3,000	13	3,000	12
Warrington	2,000	10	2,000	13	3,000	14
Warwickshire	8,000	13	7,000	12	6,000	13
West Berkshire	3,000	19	2,000	11	1,000	9
West Sussex	9,000	13	8,000	11	8,000	11
Westminster	4,000	11	5,000	14	5,000	15
Wigan	7,000	21	6,000	17	5,000	13
Wiltshire	5,000	13	3,000	9	7,000	15
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,000	12	2,000	15	1,000	10
Wirral	6,000	18	6,000	17	6,000	20
Wokingham	2,000	9	*	*	2,000	11
Wolverhampton	6,000	21	7,000	23	9,000	29
Worcestershire	6,000	12	4,000	8	5,000	8
York	5,000	17	4,000	15	1,000	4

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many young people were not in education, employment or training in *(a)* England and *(b)* North-East Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [291284]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of participation in education, training and employment for those aged 16 to 18 are published by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml

These estimates cannot be broken down to constituency level. However, Connexions Services collect information on the number and proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET in each local authority area. Figures for Cambridgeshire are shown in the following table. As the Connexions data set is calculated in a different way to the Department's official estimates set out above, comparative figures for England are also shown. Figures for Cambridgeshire are not available prior to 2006.

16 to 18-year-olds NEET (Connexions estimates)

		2006	2007	2008
Cambridgeshire	Number	900	840	900
	Proportion (percentage)	5.4	5.0	5.2
England	Number	126,500	109,300	110,890
	Proportion (percentage)	7.7	6.7	6.7

Through the September Guarantee, we are providing every young person aged 16 to 17 with a suitable offer of a place in learning. This has helped us to make excellent progress on participation, with a record level of 88 per cent. of 16 to 17-year-olds in education and training at the end of 2008, and the third consecutive fall in the proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds NEET. Connexions services provide advice and support to all young people and since April 2009, 18-year-old jobseekers who have been NEET for 26 weeks have received early entry to the additional support available through the new deal.

Visits Abroad: Maldives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials of each grade in his Department visited the Maldives *(a)* in 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [289621]

Mr. McFadden: There were no visits to the Maldives by officials of the Department, either during 2008 or during 2009 to date.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Code and Civil Service Management Code. In BIS the criteria for booking travel is value for money based on cost and convenience.

Work of the Sector Skills Councils

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress he has made in evaluating the effectiveness of the work of the sector skills councils. [290147]

Kevin Brennan: All 25 sector skills councils are currently undergoing a robust and rigorous re-licensing assessment, in order to ensure they are as effective as possible. For each SSC there will be a detailed report by the National Audit Office and an overall assessment by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. The assessment tests the performance of SSCs against four key themes: that the organisation is well run; is able to deliver core products and services; is able to deliver sector-specific solutions in line with employer demand; and, is making progress in achieving results and impacts. Eight of the initial 10 SSCs assessed have achieved the standard to be re-licensed by Government. Further announcements on the performance of SSCs are taking place before the end of the year. All of these SSC reports and assessments are in the public domain on the UK Commission website. In addition, the UK Commission is implementing a new performance framework for SSCs.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question *(a)* (i) 252245, (ii) 252243 and (iii) 252242 on the Working Capital and Enterprise Finance Guarantee schemes and (iv) 252241, on the Capital for Enterprise Fund tabled on 23 January 2009 and *(b)* (A) 261653, on the Working Capital Scheme, (B) 261624, on loans from the European Investment Bank, (C) 261512, on regional development agencies and (D) 261487, on contracts with banks, tabled on 3 March 2009. [268313]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 1 April 2009]:* Questions 252243 and 252245 were answered by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination on 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 430W.

Question 252242 was answered by my hon. Friend, the then Minister for Economics and Business on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1060W.

Question 252241 was answered by my hon. Friend, the then Minister for Economics and Business on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1271W.

Question 261653 was answered by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2192W.

Question 261624 was answered by my hon. Friend, the then Minister for Economics and Business on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1446W.

I answered question 261512 on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1447W, and question 261487 on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 762W.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 280004, tabled on 10 June 2009, on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [281284]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs on 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2199W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to answer question 241954, on Government departments: information communications technology, tabled to the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on 4 December 2008. [289453]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member, which was due to administrative error in the Department.

To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practice for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Department internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available: 164.36.50.240, 164.36.50.240 and 164.36.50.217.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he will reply to Question 281131, tabled on 15 June 2009, on a reply to correspondence on banks. [289947]

Mr. McFadden: I replied to the hon. Member on 21 September. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to answer question *(a)* 279301, *(b)* 279302 and *(c)* 279303, on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, tabled on 9 June 2009. [290211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to question 279301 on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1104W.

I refer the hon. Member to the answers my hon. Friend the Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs gave to questions 279302 and 279303 on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2059W.

HEALTH

Abortions

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress in using NHS numbers as a national unique patient identifier in respect of abortion operations; what proportion of such operations performed in the last 12 months were assigned an NHS number; whether that proportion has increased since September 2008; and whether the requirement to use NHS numbers in such operations from 18 September 2009 applies to independent clinics who perform abortions under NHS contract. [290273]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collected centrally. The Department currently has no plans to use national health service numbers as a unique patient identifier in respect of abortion operations.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many repeat abortions there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [291583]

Gillian Merron: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Allergies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 388W, on meeting dates, when his Department plans to respond to the emails from the National Allergy Strategy Group of 28 May, 4 June, 19 June and 6 July 2009. [289173]

Ann Keen: The Department cannot find any record of receiving e-mails from the National Allergy Strategy Group (NASG) on 28 May, 4 June or 6 July, although we are aware that the group have requested a meeting. The private office of the Under-Secretary of State for Health has previously attempted to contact Mandy East, chair of the NASG and been unsuccessful. However, contact has recently been made and a meeting has been organised for 15 October 2009.

Arthritis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary care consultations for rheumatoid arthritis in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what average cost. [289458]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number, and cost, of primary and secondary consultations for rheumatoid arthritis.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of rheumatoid arthritis to *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* the social care system in the latest year for which figures are available. [289566]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the cost of rheumatoid arthritis to the national health service and social care system.

Breast Cancer: Males

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of male breast cancer is in each primary care trust area. [290207]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated August 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the incidence of male breast cancer is in each primary care trust area [290207].

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. There were 275 newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer in males in England in 2006.

Figures are not released for all individual primary care trust areas due to small numbers. Table 1 shows primary care trust areas with three or more newly diagnosed cases of male breast cancer in 2006. There were fewer than three cases in each of the remaining 108 primary care trust areas.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of male breast cancer[1] by strategic health authority and primary care trust[2]

	2006
North East	
Newcastle	3
Sunderland Teaching	3
North West	
Bury	3
Central and Eastern Cheshire	7
Cumbria Teaching	7
Halton and St. Helens	3
Salford	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	
Kirklees	4
Leeds	5
North Yorkshire and York	3
Sheffield	3
Wakefield District	3
East Midlands	
Lincolnshire Teaching	4
Northamptonshire Teaching	6
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	3
West Midlands	
Birmingham East and North	6
Coventry Teaching	3
Stoke on Trent	3
Warwickshire	3
East of England	
Bedfordshire	3
East and North Hertfordshire	3
Norfolk	4
North East Essex	5
South East Essex	6
Suffolk	8
West Hertfordshire	6
London	
Barnet	3
Bexley	3
Brent Teaching	4
South East Coast	
Brighton and Hove City	3
East Sussex Downs and Weald	3
Medway	3
Surrey	8
West Sussex	3
South Central	
Berkshire West	3
Buckinghamshire	3
Hampshire	4
Oxfordshire	4
South West	
Bath and North East Somerset	3
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	5
Devon	8
Gloucestershire	4
Somerset	4

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of male breast cancer[1] by strategic health authority and primary care trust[2]

	2006
South Gloucestershire	3

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008. Due to small numbers only primary care trusts with three or more newly diagnosed cases are included.
Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Burns: Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where each burns unit in England is located; and how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children with each category of burn each unit treated in each of the last three years. [289454]

Phil Hope: Tables which provide a breakdown of burn injury by strategic health authority, for the years 2005-06 to 2007-08 for adults and children have been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Health Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide patients receiving treatment for cancers with *(a)* dental and *(b)* eye care fee exemptions; and if he will make a statement. [289563]

Phil Hope: We have no current plans to extend the exemption arrangements for national health service dental charges or the eligibility criteria for free NHS sight tests.

Patients do not have to pay for NHS dental treatment if they receive treatment from a hospital dentist as an in-patient or attend as a hospital dental service outpatient, although they may have to pay for any dentures or bridges supplied. Children, pregnant and nursing mothers, adults on certain income-related benefits, and adults who qualify for full assistance under the NHS low income scheme may also receive free treatment if attending an NHS primary care dentist.

No NHS charges apply to patients attending a hospital eye department for the investigation or management of an eye condition. In addition, free NHS sight tests are available from primary care optometrists to a wide range of patients. These include children, people aged 60 and over, people with glaucoma or diabetes or who are at risk of glaucoma, people registered as sight-impaired or blind or who need complex lenses, and adults on certain income-related benefits or who qualify for full assistance under the NHS low income scheme. Private sight tests are widely available for other adults not eligible for an NHS sight test.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of cardiovascular screening checks undertaken by each primary care trust since 1 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [291615]

Phil Hope: Information in the form requested is not collected centrally. However, we expect that around one million people will be offered an NHS health check by the end of March 2010.

Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Government's response to the royal commission on long term care, Cm 4818-II, page 8, in which years the Government's investment would fund the cost of the Royal Commission's recommendation; what research his Department has commissioned to ascertain how much money goes to supporting older people in residential homes; and what recent estimates he has made of the average annual cost to his Department of supporting older people in residential care. [290280]

Phil Hope: The Government accepted each of the royal commission on long term care's recommendations except the recommendation to provide free personal care. Making personal care free for everyone carries a very substantial cost: the estimated cost is some £1.5 billion in 2003-04 rising to £2.65 billion in 2010-11.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care publishes annually data on councils' expenditure on residential care for older people. The latest data are £4,740 million gross or £3,340 million net of user charges for 2007-08.

The Department commissioned the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the London School of Economics to make projections of expenditure on long-term care for older people in England. In a joint study with the Universities of Essex and Birmingham, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, they estimated that the introduction of free personal care could cost between £1.3 billion and £1.8 billion or more in 2002—PSSRU Research Summary 40, available at:

www.pssru.ac.uk/researchsummaries.php

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish a response to his Department's consultation on ordinary residence guidance. [290393]

Phil Hope: The response to the ordinary residence guidance consultation is expected to be published in the winter.

Care Homes: Learning Disability

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median quality rating for *(a)* local authority provision, *(b)* voluntary provision, *(c)* private provision and *(d)* NHS provision of residential care home placements for adults aged under 65 years with learning disabilities in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area was in each of the last five years. [290245]

Phil Hope: The quality or "star" rating system for social care providers was introduced by the then regulator of social care, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) in May 2008. For this reason, the information requested is not available for each of the last five years.

Information on average quality ratings of care homes for younger adults with provision for people with learning disabilities, as at 8 August 2008 and 28 July 2009, has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), which took over the responsibilities of CSCI on 1 April 2009. This information has been placed in the Library.

Carers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to enable carers to *(a)* attend general practitioner consultations with those for who they care and *(b)* speak to general practitioners on behalf of such persons. [290392]

Phil Hope: The Government have no current plans to change the arrangements for carers attending general practitioner (GP) consultations with, or speaking to GPs on behalf of, those for whom they care.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 enshrines in statute a presumption that every adult has the capacity to make his or her own decisions. It is for individuals with capacity, who have carers, to decide whether they want their carer to attend a GP consultation or to speak to a GP on their behalf.

Where a person does not have capacity to make such a decision, the Mental Capacity Act will come into effect. Those caring for the person may need to attend the GP consultation and/or speak to the GP on behalf of the person lacking capacity. Where they do so, the GP has no new obligation to share confidential information with the carer so will need to exercise his or her judgment as to what information they need to share if any about the health care needs of the person they are caring for.

Cervical Cancer

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of cervical cancer symptoms by public healthcare professionals; [291468]

(2) if he will make it his policy to lower the cervical cancer screening age to 20 years. [291471]

Phil Hope: Through the national awareness and early diagnosis initiative, we are making the public and health care professionals more aware of the signs and symptoms of cancer, including cervical cancer and encouraging those who may have symptoms to seek advice earlier. We have allocated £5 million to the national health service to support cancer networks and primary care trusts in implementing services that will improve awareness of cancers and promote early diagnosis.

A national audit in primary care of all patients diagnosed with cancer is being undertaken in collaboration with the Royal College of Practitioners and the National Patient Safety Agency. Findings from the audit will be used to make decisions about how best to provide more support to general practitioners and other primary care professionals to ensure early diagnosis of cancer.

We have set up a working group to produce a new guideline to assist general practitioners in the management of young women who present in primary care with gynaecological symptoms. The aim is to issue the guideline before the end of the year.

We are also preparing key messages on cervical cancer for members of the public. The first draft is currently being reviewed by an expert group of stakeholders, and our plans are to launch these before the end of the year. These will go on to NHS Choices and stakeholder websites, and stakeholders will be encouraged to use them in a variety of ways to raise awareness.

The independent Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening (ACCS) at its formal review in May agreed unanimously that there should be no change in the current policy in England of starting cervical screening at 25 years. However, the cervical screening age range will be a standing item on the agenda of meetings of the ACCS, which reviews all new research to assess its significance to the cervical screening programme.

NHS cancer screening programmes maintain an on-line database of literature relating to cervical screening, and publish 'Cervical Screening: Literature Update' twice a year. If further evidence is published that warrants another formal review of the screening age range, this will be done.

Children: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been provided by each health trust for safeguarding of children in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [291616]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Coeliac Disease

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many requests for coeliac disease antibody tests NHS pathology laboratories have received in the last five years; [292019]

(2) on how many occasions the NHS has taken a biopsy from a patient in order to confirm a suspected diagnosis of coeliac disease in the last five years. [292020]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Complementary Medicine

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission a study in England with equivalent terms of reference to the Get Well UK pilot study of use of complementary and alternative medicine carried out with Government funding in Northern Ireland in 2007-08; what assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of allowing GPs to refer patients to complementary and alternative health practitioners; and if he will make a statement. [289640]

Gillian Merron: The Department is currently considering the findings of the complementary and alternative medicine pilot study which took place in Northern Ireland. It is for local practitioners to decide whether to refer patients for specific therapies. One factor that they will wish to take account of is clinical and cost-effectiveness. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is responsible for assessing clinical and cost-effectiveness and can look at this in relation to specific complementary and alternative therapies, which have an evidence base, in the context of specific clinical guidelines.

Continuing Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Government's response to the royal commission on long-term care, Cm 4818-II, page 10, whether approval was given to a national survey to monitor trends in health expectancy. [290278]

Phil Hope: The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) began in March 2002, funded jointly by Her Majesty's Government and the United States National Institute of Ageing. The Government hope shortly to finalise arrangements to extend the survey for a further five years. The ELSA data can be used to estimate health expectancy in England at older ages.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) regularly produce and publish national estimates of health expectancy at birth and at age 65, using data from the General Household Survey. The most recent estimates are published in Health Statistics Quarterly), winter 2008 (p77), available on the ONS website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=6725

Contraceptives

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what measures the £26.8 million allocated for the improvement for young people's access to contraception in February 2008 has been spent; and if he will make a statement. [291582]

Gillian Merron: A total of £26.8 million has been allocated this year to strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) to improve women's knowledge of, and access to, the full range of contraception, to help reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and abortions.

It is for SHAs and PCTs to determine how to use this funding most effectively to meet the needs of their local populations. However, officials are working with SHAs to provide advice and spread good practice. Priority areas include encouraging innovation and providing sustainable services to ensure equitable access to all methods of contraception including long acting reversible (LARC) methods. Guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence highlighted that the national health service could save around £100 million through reducing unintended pregnancies if women switched to LARC.

In addition, each SHA will also receive an additional £250,000 to pump-prime the provision of information technology in community contraception services.

Dementia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's review of the use of anti-psychotic medicine for dementia treatment. [290387]

Phil Hope: The review of the use of anti-psychotic medicine for dementia treatment will be published shortly.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on the dental access programme in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many staff the programme employs. [289996]

Phil Hope: In 2008-09, the Department spent an estimated £125,000 on commissioning specialist consultancy to support the new dental access programme. Precise costs and headcount figures are not available because some of the consultants supported a range of activities in which the dental access programme was only one element. Input from departmental staff to support the programme has been provided from within existing departmental resources at no additional cost to the Department.

The dental access programme is providing on-going support to strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to help them improve access to NHS dental services and make the most effective use of the extra national health service funding, now totalling more than £2.25 billion, made available for primary dental care services. Information on expenditure on the dental access programme in 2009-10 will be available after the year end.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the six medium-term actions referred to in chapter 7 of the independent review of NHS dental services in England; [290345]

(2) with reference to page 88 of Chapter 7 of the independent review of NHS dental services in England, what recent estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of implementing the four longer-term aims identified by the Review; [290490]

(3) with reference to page 84 of chapter 7 of the Independent Review of NHS dental services in England, whether he has estimated the cost of implementing the seven immediate priorities identified by the Review. [290493]

Phil Hope: Work has begun to estimate these costs. Funding has been identified for the implementation of the seven immediate priorities and to determine the costs of the medium and longer term priorities.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on standards of dental services in the last 12 months. [290346]

Phil Hope: We have had no such discussions.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessor, *(c)* other Ministers in his Department and *(d)* Departmental officials met Professor Jimmy Steele and the dental review team between the dates of the (i) announcement and (ii) publication of the independent review of NHS dental services in England. [290347]

Ann Keen: As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. Professor Steele met a wide range of stakeholders as part of his independent review and these are listed in an annex to his review. This has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101137

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on its review of the dental public health work-force; and if he will make a statement. [290349]

Phil Hope: Officials with policy responsibilities for oral health and dental education within the chief dental officer's team are leading on the review with the help of an external consultant. As at July 2009, the consultant's fees and the costs of providing accommodation and services for meetings amounted to a total of approximately £43,000. Estimating and costing the proportion of the time, which officials have devoted to the review within their other duties, could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the review of the dental public health work-force commissioned by his Department to be published; and if he will make a statement. [290350]

Phil Hope: We hope to publish the report of the review by the end of the year. It has taken longer than expected because of the need to take account of helpful recommendations in the report of the independent review of national health service dental services in England led by Professor Jimmy Steele. The continuing development of the world class commissioning initiative, which is intended to ensure that the health and care services provided by the NHS effectively meet the needs of the population, is also relevant to this review.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to page 88 of chapter 7 of the independent review of NHS dental services in England, which of the four longer-term aims identified by the review his Department has accepted; and what mechanism his Department has put in place for implementation in each such case; [290491]

(2) which of the medium-term actions identified by the review his Department has accepted; and what mechanism his Department has put in place for implementation in each such case; [290492]

(3) with reference to page 87 of the independent review of NHS dental services in England, which of the seven immediate priorities identified by the review his Department has accepted; and what steps his Department has taken towards implementation in each such case. [290495]

Phil Hope: The Government have accepted all the recommendations of the review in principle, subject to working through the detail of their financial implications and the outcome of piloting. The report recognises the more difficult future fiscal environment, and rightly puts an emphasis on piloting, cost containment and more efficient ways of working.

Work has begun to implement the seven immediate priorities identified, and a programme is being developed to take forward the implementation of the other recommendations, and the contract pilots.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to chapter 7 of the independent Review of NHS dental services in England, whether his Department has identified separate funding streams in respect of the *(a)* immediate priorities, *(b)* medium-term actions and *(c)* longer-term aims identified in the review. [290494]

Phil Hope: Funding has been identified for this year for the immediate priorities. Budget plans for 2010-11 are still being finalised.

Dental Services: Information and Communications Technology

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to develop an IT plan for NHS dentistry; and if he will make a statement. [290459]

Phil Hope: The report of the independent review of NHS dental services in England, led by Professor Jimmy Steele, recommend that there should be a formal national information technology (IT) strategy for NHS dentistry, aiming to link all dentists to the wider NHS within five years. We have accepted the recommendations of the report in principle, but any decision on an IT plan would need to be subject to a full appraisal of cost and the wider financial context.

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289506]

Phil Hope: The following table provides a breakdown of the Department's expenditure through the Central Office of Information (COI) on advertising in each national newspaper for the 2008-09 financial year.

To identify the amount of expenditure by the Department in each regional newspaper would incur a disproportionate cost.

National press	*1 April 2008-31 March 2009 (£)*
The Sun	1,097,736
News of the World	1,048,402
Daily Mirror	1,255,682
Sunday Mirror	474,998
Sunday People	233,186
Daily Star	230,934
Daily Star Sunday	75,490
Daily Mail	353,794
Mail on Sunday	243,750
Daily Express	197,932
Sunday Express	119,896
The Times	69,500
The Sunday Times	29,970
The Daily Telegraph	100,548

National press	*1 April 2008-31 March 2009 (£)*
The Sunday Telegraph	23,712
The Guardian	59,604
The Observer	10,500
The Independent	16,677
The Independent on Sunday	3,400
Metro (National)	140,244
The London Paper	39,854
London Lite	20,010

Ethnic press	*1 April 2008-31 March 2009*
Daily Ausaf	1,000
Eastern Eye	1,300
The Muslim Weekly	1,200
Pride	1,890
The Trumpet	1,500
The Voice	2,000
Weekly Gleaner	1,200
Asian Age	1,300
Emel	2,000
Asian Leader	1,000
Asian Voice	1,400
Asiana	2,500
African Voice	1,500

Notes:

1. All figures above exclude VAT. All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from COI official turnover figures.
2. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, COI commission and VAT).
3. These figures do not include the Department's recruitment/classified advertising costs.
4. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by national health service organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which initiatives of his Department and its agencies expenditure on advertising has been incurred in each of the last five years; how much was spent on each such initiative; and which such initiatives were offered for tender through the Central Office of Information. [292527]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the Department's advertising expenditure over the last five completed financial years. A further breakdown of these figures is available in the Library.

All departmental advertising listed as follows was carried out via the Central Office of Information (COI), with the exception of those initiatives highlighted with an asterisk. To identify other ad hoc expenditure not carried out via the COI would incur disproportionate cost.

Department of Health advertising spend[1] in 2004-05 to 2008-09

£ million

Campaign	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[2]
Alcohol[3]	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.61	4.77
Antibiotics	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.39	1.15
Change4Life	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.69
Drugs[4]	0.91	0.18	1.34	0.67	1.45
Flu (Immunisation)	1.45	1.83	1.11	0.98	1.42
Hepatitis C	0.00	0.00	0.52	1.34	1.30
HPV Vaccination	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80
Immunisation	0.00	0.00	1.66	0.00	0.32
National Health Service including nurse recruitment	5.96	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
NHS Injury Benefits Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
NHS Choices*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.55
Patient Choice*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53
Respiratory and Hand Hygiene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.53
Sexual health/teenage pregnancy	1.40	0.00	2.88	3.11	2.83
Social care/worker recruitment	1.80	L2.42	2.31	2.22	2.03
Smoking—Tobacco Control	20.05	20.80	13.17	10.79	23.38
Stroke	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.52
Tobacco Legislation	0.00	0.00	0.32	5.38	0.00
Winter (Get the right treatment/ask about medicines day)	0.54	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00
5 a Day	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
E111/EHIC	0.24	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
Department of Health outdoor campaign	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	32.73	27.47	23.92	26.24	56.43

[1] Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, COI commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from COI official turnover figures. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000. These figures do not include departmental recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by NHS organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this chart reflects central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

[2] Provisional figure.

[3] From 2006-07 Department of Health contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office.

[4] Department of Health contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290443]

Phil Hope: In each of the last five years, less than five individuals have been dismissed from the core Department.

In each of the last five years, less than five non-permanent workers have been terminated for reasons other than the completion of the work under their contract.

Exact figures are not provided and related information suppressed on confidentiality grounds.

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what flexitime arrangements were available to staff within the Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290445]

Phil Hope: The Department recognises that flexible working allows staff to combine employment and a career with other responsibilities as well as meeting personal needs. The Department encourages staff to work flexibly through providing opportunities such as part-time working, job sharing, term-time only working and the use of flexitime. It also provides the technology to allow staff to work at home on occasions and has in place specific arrangements to allow parents, adopters, guardians and foster carers of children under 16 (or disabled children under 18) to apply to work flexibly.

Most staff participate in the flexitime work arrangement. The Department also encourages other flexible arrangements such as spreading working hours over nine days within a fortnight or four days within a week.

Managers have the discretion to agree flexible working arrangements locally, without making contractual changes. These local arrangements are not recorded centrally so the numbers of staff working flexibly is not available, but is likely to be a large proportion of the work force.

In our last submission to Office for National Statistics (1 April 2009) we had 201 staff working part-time, based on those arrangements where contractual changes were agreed centrally. Of those, six had job-share arrangements and five were working term-time. Prior to July 2008 this information was not held centrally.

At the website

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899

There are details of full- and part-time employees in the Department.

From 16 June 2009 civil servants hoping to find a job-share partner can now use a new online job-sharing board to help match them with a suitable person. This can be found at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/news/2009/june/job-share.aspx

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290439]

Phil Hope: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each civil service payband. [290441]

Phil Hope: The average length of employment in the Department for each grade are presented in the following table.

Grade	*Average length of service (years)*
Administrative Officer	8.6
Executive Officer	9.0
Higher Executive Officer	8.7
Senior Executive Officer	10.7
Grade 7	9.0
Grade 6	10.2
Senior Civil Service 1	9.6
Senior Civil Service 2	11.1
Senior Civil Service 3	8.6
Fast Stream	1.5
All Grades	8.9

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2061W, on departmental marketing, how many staff in his Department are responsible for branding activity; and what the cost of employing such staff was in 2008-09. [290214]

Phil Hope: In the 2008-09 budget year three staff were employed to work on branding.

The cost of employing branding staff during this period was £141,752.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291612]

Phil Hope: Figures for car hire expenditure booked through our car hire contract company Arval are only available for the last two years.

	Car hire expenditure (£)
2007-08	22,815
2008-09	31,118

The previous car hire contract expired in May 2006 and figures for previous years are not easily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many properties owned by the Department were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the liability of each was in each such year. [290446]

Phil Hope: The information requested is provided as follows.

The Department has occupied two freehold properties for which business rates are paid during the five-year period.

Information in relation to empty business rates is not readily available other than for the last two years.

	Business rates		*Empty business rates*	
	Number of Properties	*Cost (£)*	*Number of Properties*	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	2	2,765,930		n/a
2005-06	2	601,350		n/a
2006-07	2	2,017,780		n/a
2007-08	2	2,108,180	3	15,817
2008-09	2	2,193,200	3	45,842

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the average duration of such leave has been. [290444]

Phil Hope: The figures for the number of staff taking paternity leave are only available from the implementation of the Department's business management system on 1 July 2008. Prior to that date information is only be available from hard-copy files and so it would incur disproportionate costs to establish that information. Our records show that the number of staff taking paternity leave in 2008 was nine, and so far this year (2009) the number has been five. The average length of paternity leave taken was 14 days.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the responses to his Department's consultation on its Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673. [290395]

Phil Hope: The Green Paper consultation closes on 13 November 2009. The Government's response to the consultation will be published after this date.

Departmental Public Consultations

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations he consulted on his proposals to (i) give 350,000 people free personal home care, (ii) provide patients with access to cancer diagnostics within one week of concerns being raised and (iii) provide free parking for hospital in-patients. [292535]

Andy Burnham: The Department and Ministers engage continuously with key stakeholders across all policy areas and through this process can identify key issues and develop proposals to address them.

Such engagement and consultation with individuals and groups with an interest in these proposals will continue as we work with them towards their implementation.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289739]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am the Department of Health Minister with responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money. The Department has not created a new single public sector reform team because directorates within the Department lead on different elements of service reform.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on whether funding presently allocated to his Department is to be re-allocated to the Department for Communities and Local Government to help implement the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative Programme for 2009-10. [290487]

Phil Hope: The Secretary of State for Health discussed the Department of Health's contribution to the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative Programme with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, as part of the process of publishing "Building Britain's Future".

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Prime Minister's announcement of 29 June 2009 on provision of social housing, whether funds from underspends in his Department's budget will be re-allocated to social housing initiatives. [291877]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1352W.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the national programme budgeting data for 2007-08. [291878]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am told that the time taken to publish the 2007-08 programme budgeting data was due to a new data collection mechanism for both the reference cost data (which are used as part of the programme budgeting calculations) and the programme budgeting data. In addition, due to a change in the programme budgeting data collection methodology, additional validation work was undertaken to estimate expenditure levels per programme without methodological changes.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 350-1W, on parliamentary bulletins, what amendment was requested to the first edition of Westminster; for what reason a reference to the remuneration of the chair of the Appointments Commission was removed; and what the chair's remuneration is. [289693]

Phil Hope: The Appointments Commission had planned to include an article on the remuneration of chairs in the first edition of the 'Westminster' bulletin. During discussions on the draft, departmental officials suggested that the article might raise expectations of chairs of national health service organisations about the Secretary of State's discretion when deciding remuneration increases, within the framework of the Public Sector Pay Committee's decisions, which were not correct. The Appointments Commission, who have editorial control, made a decision to replace the article.

The planned article was about chairs' remuneration in general. It did not refer to the remuneration of the chair of the Appointments Commission specifically, and no such reference was removed from Westminster Bulletin.

Remuneration for the chair of the Appointments Commission is in the range of £45,000-50,000 as published in the Appointments Commission's latest annual report and accounts (2008-09). This can be found on their website:

www.appointments.org.uk/publications.asp

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of producing his Department's publication, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, was; what the cost of obtaining pictures for the publication was; and from where the pictures were obtained. [290101]

Phil Hope: The production cost of the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" was £68,451. The cost of obtaining pictures for the publication, which will also be used for The Big Care Debate, was £6,580. These were sourced from the national health service photo library, as well as from private image library banks.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 27, whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research to update the figures provided by the study on Lifetime risk of entering residential or nursing home care in England. [290120]

Phil Hope: Research commissioned by the Department and carried out by the personal social services research unit (PSSRU) "Analysing the costs and benefits of social care funding arrangements in England: technical report, Julien Forder and José-Luis Fernández, 2009, PSSRU Discussion Paper 2644" looks at the lifetime probability of needing care and the cost of this care. This includes residential home care.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 19, what data modelling of a universal deferred payment mechanism his Department has undertaken; what estimate he has made of the inflationary costs of such a mechanism; what estimate he has made of the likely default rate under such a mechanism; and how his Department would finance such a mechanism. [290121]

Phil Hope: At present, local authorities that choose to can offer individuals to pay for their care through a deferred payments scheme. However, this option is not currently available to all—approximately 30 local authorities do not offer deferred payments to people entering residential care. The Green Paper proposes making the scheme available to all who wish to use it. Further detail on the assumptions made underpinning this proposal can be found in the impact assessment. The detailed design of the system, exactly how it would operate and the precise costs will be finalised once there is consensus about the preferred funding option, since the choice of funding option is likely to influence the cost of the deferred payment scheme.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 123, if he will place in the Library a copy of the data modelling for the *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* partnership model. [290122]

Phil Hope: A summary of the costs and benefits for the comprehensive and partnership funding models are available in the regulatory impact assessment for the Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together". This has been placed in the Library, and can be seen at:

http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/the-green-paper-and-supporting-documents/

A summary of the model from which these costs are derived has been placed in the Library, and can be seen at:

http://www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether each of the models referred to in his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 123, is to be used in the funding of *(a)* domiciliary, *(b)* residential and *(c)* domiciliary and residential care. [290123]

Phil Hope: All of the funding options cover the costs of care. The costs of care include services in both domiciliary and residential care.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 42, what assumptions were made on the level of state funding in each year to 2025. [290179]

Phil Hope: The Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" does not make any commitments about the level of state funding for adult social care in the future. This will be a matter for future spending reviews.

The net cost to the state of each of the Green Paper funding options has been estimated for 2014 and 2026. This is given in the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) for the Care and Support Green Paper which is has already been placed in the Library, or can be seen at:

http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/the-green-paper-and-supporting-documents/

In order to produce these projections of likely cost it was necessary to make a series of assumptions for modelling purposes, including illustrative assumptions around levels of funding. The purpose of these projections is to provide early indicative costs to allow comparison between funding options: they are not intended to be a projection of actual future funding. The actual costs of the different models could alter substantially following decisions about precisely how the funding options are implemented, as well as by future public spending and prioritisation decisions.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 126, what definition his Department uses of a consensus across society; and what mechanisms he plans to use to determine the extent of such a consensus. [290180]

Phil Hope: The new National Care Service will affect every adult in England, whether people use the system themselves, have family members who need support, or are taxpayers. It is vital that everybody gets involved in the Big Care Debate to have their say on the future direction of the new care and support system.

The Big Care Debate is one of the biggest consultations ever conducted by Government to find out the views of the public. We are reaching out to people in an unprecedented number of ways, through stakeholder events in every region in England, public road shows, leaflets, questionnaires and postcards, a dedicated website, outreach in general practitioner surgeries, universities and other locations and using new digital media including Facebook and Twitter.

The consultation closes on 13 November 2009 and we will be looking closely at all the responses to identify what national consensus has formed around the options in "Shaping the Future of Care Together", a copy of which is available in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 112, how many more people born with care and support needs would qualify for free care under the partnership element than qualify under his Department's current policies; and what estimate he has made of the cost of providing care for people who would qualify for all their care free under that element. [290181]

Phil Hope: We do not have an exact estimate of the number of people born with care and support needs who would qualify for free care under the partnership funding option outlined in the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together". However, it is likely to be very similar to the number of people born with a disability who receive entirely free care under the present system of care and support.

This is because currently, the majority of individuals who are born with a disability and who are entitled to state support receive their care free of charge because they tend not to have the opportunity to accumulate assets and they tend not to be in employment. This would also be the case under the partnership system.

The personal social services research unit estimates that cost of providing care for people who would qualify for all their care free under the partnership funding option in 2009 would be £9.8 billion.

From the modelling results, the total cost of providing care to those who would qualify for all their care free under the partnership system can be approximated as the sum of the care costs for younger adults, since most will receive it for free, and the cost for the minority of older people who would receive their care entirely for free. Currently, this would amount to £4.7 billion for younger disabled people (younger physically disabled and people with learning disability) and £5.1 billion for older people, giving a total cost of £9.8 billion.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 77, what assessment he has made of the reasons for which there is little solid evidence about what prevention methods work best. [290182]

Phil Hope: Robust evidence that specifically examines the cost effectiveness of prevention interventions is limited. This is owing to the long time scales involved—the impact of an intervention may not be felt for many years—and the difficulty of establishing causality. In "Securing Good Care for Older People", Derek Wanless found that it can be difficult to make quantitative assessments due to the complex nature of prevention. This is because

> "even when using a very narrow specific target such as reducing the number of falls in a locality, determining cost-effectiveness is not straightforward...[as] there may be numerous factors at play (for example new transport facilities)."

The Department is funding 29 local authority-led partnerships to take part in Partnership for Older People Projects (POPPs) across England. These partnerships include social care, health and third sector members, and aim to create a sustainable shift in resources and culture, moving away from institutional and hospital-based crisis care towards earlier and better-targeted interventions for older people within community settings. The pilots cover a wide range of activity to meet low to high levels of need. The final evaluation for these projects is expected in autumn 2009.

The relative lack of quantitative evidence should not stop prevention pilots being trialled. There is a great deal of qualitative evidence for the value placed on lower-level services by older people in helping them to maintain their independence. That is why existing and new prevention and early intervention schemes funded by the Government build evaluations into their projects.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 40, if he will place in the Library a copy of HM Treasury's fiscal projections for the costs of long-term care. [290183]

Phil Hope: HM Treasury's long-term fiscal projections show that the costs of long term care are set to increase by 17 per cent. by 2027-28, from 1.2 per cent. of gross domestic product in 2007-08 to 1.4 per cent. in 2027-28. These projections are contained in the published "Long-term public finance report", HM Treasury, March 2008.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 38, whether the statistics on life expectancy for children born with Down's syndrome are based on research undertaken in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the US. [290184]

Phil Hope: The increase in life expectancy for people with Down's syndrome quoted in the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 38 is based on American research.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 14, what data were used to calculate figures on the cost of care; and if he will place in the Library a copy of those data. [290185]

Phil Hope: The information on the lifetime costs of care for those aged over 65 sited on page 14 of the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" is taken from section 5.1.2 Lifetime risks and costs in the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) technical report into analysing the costs and benefits of social care funding arrangements in England.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library, and is available on PSSRU's website at:

www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 12, when he plans to publish the action plan on workforce development. [290186]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently working closely with our key partners in the social care sector to develop an action plan for the development of the adult social care workforce of the future.

The Department aims to publish this plan this autumn.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 10, what the earliest date is on which each of the six proposals could be implemented. [290187]

Phil Hope: The consultation on the Green Paper will last until 13 November 2009. Once the consultation has been completed, these responses will be used to inform and finalise our proposals. We will then publish a White Paper on care and support in 2010.

Work on many of the areas highlighted in the Green Paper is already underway through the Putting People First programme.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the results of the *(a)* polling and *(b)* focus group work conducted in relation to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673. [290386]

Phil Hope: "The Case for Change—Why England needs a new care and support system: Engagement Findings" has already been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* young adults with disabilities, including learning disabilities and *(b)* other people he consulted in the preparation of his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673. [290397]

Phil Hope: The Care Support Independence engagement process took place between May and November 2008 to give a cross-section of the public and key stakeholders the opportunity to debate the principles that should underpin the future of the care and support system for all adults.

Over the course of the engagement, a total of 1,092 stakeholders and citizens attended 15 deliberative events held across all English regions. A further 97 people were interviewed either individually or in mini-groups. 1,449 separate communications were received through the dedicated website and by letter and email. Inclusivity research with 11 specific groups of citizens engaged in an appropriate and accessible way with people for whom the deliberative events might not be suitable. These included young adults and people with learning disabilities, physical impairments, those living in rural areas, Gypsies and Travellers, ex-offenders and people for whom English was not their first language.

On publication of the Green Paper on 14 July 2009, a wide ranging consultation process was launched to encourage people to give their views on the proposals and join the Big Care Debate. This consultation closes on 13 November 2009.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper on "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 10, what estimate he has made of the cost of the proposed six week re-ablement plan; what steps he plans to take to *(a)* promote telecare and *(b)* make information available on prevention and early intervention as part of his proposals on the care and support system; and what estimate he has made of the cost of taking such steps. [290519]

Phil Hope: While re-ablement is, hour for hour, more expensive than home care, many people do not need an ongoing home care package after a few weeks of re-ablement. A re-ablement package would typically pay for itself if a re-ablement user continued not to need ongoing care for around five to seven months, where they would otherwise have required a typical care package.

Using a high estimate that it would cost £1,000 per re-ablement package, we believe it would be possible to offer re-ablement to people leaving hospital who would qualify for care and support from the state for the first time, subject to future funding decisions.

The consultation on the Green Paper will last until 13 November 2009. Once the consultation has been completed, these responses will be used to inform and finalise our proposals, including those on the promotion of telecare and making information available about prevention and early intervention. We will then publish a White Paper on care and support in 2010.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", Cm 7673, page 17, what estimate he has made of the level of personal cost at which paying for care is fundamentally unfair. [290520]

Phil Hope: No estimate has been made of the level of personal cost at which paying for costs is fundamentally unfair since this is likely to differ from one individual to another. However, the Government believe that a system which leaves everyone to pay for themselves with no state support—what is called in the Green Paper the "Pay for Yourself" option—would be fundamentally unfair because:

> Care would be unaffordable for many people. Many people would not be able to afford the costs of private insurance. For those without insurance, the costs of care can be very high: someone who develops dementia could need 10 years of high-level, skilled care in a residential care home, which could carry a price tag of over£250,000;
>
> This option would have a large negative impact on people on low incomes and with high levels of need, as the group of people who would previously have been eligible for state support and also who are unable to afford the costs of care or insurance themselves; and
>
> Those individuals unable to afford the cost of care would be left without the care they need. This could result in high levels of unmet need in the future, or pressure on friends/families to provide informal care.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290507]

Phil Hope: The requested diversity information for previous years can be found in the civil service statistics tables, available from the civil service statistics website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/index.aspx

or

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/
Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=l&Rank=422

The Department monitors diversity data at all stages of the recruitment process to ensure fairness at every point. The Department has a range of measures in place to encourage applicants from under-represented groups, including operating the Guaranteed Interview Scheme for people with disabilities and offering a broad range of flexible working options to all staff.

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289658]

Phil Hope: For 2008-09, 83.47 per cent. of the Department's waste was recycled.

The information covers the Department's central administrative estate of Richmond House, Wellington House and Skipton House. The Department is a minor occupier in New Kings Beam House (HM Revenue and Customs) and Quarry House in Leeds (Department for Work and Pensions) and the data for these sites is reported by them.

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sick days were taken by staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse of these absences was. [290440]

Phil Hope: The following table presents the average working days lost per person in the Department for the years available and the associated cost estimates for sickness. The cost estimates for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are not available.

	Average working days lost per person	*Cost estimate (£ million)*
2008-09	5.6	n/a
2007-08	5.3	n/a
2006-07	6.5	2.1
2005	7.0	2.2
2004	3.8	5.3

n/a = not available

Note:

Cost estimates given are based on information published in the annual civil service sickness absence reports, available on the Cabinet Office website.

The figure for 2004 includes both the core Department and its Agencies: the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency.

Reporting periods changed from calendar years to financial years between 2005 and 2006.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of attendances on each such course. [289703]

Phil Hope: Decisions on external training courses for staff are made locally. The Department does not therefore hold central records of course attendance or the costs involved. To collect such information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* air travel, *(c)* hotels and *(d)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff of his Department in each of the last five years. [290168]

Phil Hope: Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code and the civil service management code respectively and all expenditure on air and rail travel has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The amount spent on these expenses is not easily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas visits made by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 dating from 1997 onwards. Details on all Health Ministers overseas travel for 2008-09 can be found on the Cabinet Office website.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/
travel_gifts.aspx

Details of business expenses and hospitality received by departmental senior officials on a quarterly basis will be published in October 2009.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on travel by train for Ministers in each of the last five years. [291489]

Phil Hope: Travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code and all expenditure on rail travel has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The amount spent on rail travel is not easily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Diabetes

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on the quality of diabetes in primary care trusts of diabetes networks; [291806]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of diabetes networks, as defined in the national service framework for diabetes, on patient outcomes for people with diabetes. [291807]

Phil Hope: Diabetes networks, as defined in the diabetes national service framework, can play an important role in driving the delivery of quality of diabetes services, and improving patient outcomes. We are working with NHS Diabetes and Diabetes UK to expand networks across England.

We have not undertaken any formal assessment of the effects on the quality of diabetes in primary care trusts of diabetes networks or the effects of diabetes networks on patient outcomes for people with diabetes.

Diabetes: Health Services

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the potential role of community pharmacies in helping to reduce health inequalities for people *(a)* at risk of and *(b)* diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. [290004]

Phil Hope: The White Paper, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths - delivering the future", published in April 2008, is closely aligned with the Government's strategy for primary and community care, developed as part of the NHS Next Stage Review, and set out in our vision for primary and community care. It sets out the contribution that community pharmacy can make to reducing health inequalities by identifying and managing chronic disease, such as diabetes, especially in the most deprived areas as community pharmacy services are well placed to reach groups and individuals who do not routinely use primary care or general practice. Copies of both publications have already been placed in the Library.

Diabetes: Screening

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans there are for future provision of diabetes screening services in community pharmacies; [290006]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take to encourage commissioning by primary care trusts of services provided by community pharmacies for *(a)* screening for and *(b)* treating Type 2 diabetes; [290007]

(3) what steps his Department plans to take to provide screening and treatment services for Type 2 diabetes in community pharmacies for hard-to-reach groups. [290008]

Phil Hope: The Government take its advice on screening matters from the National Screening Committee. It has advised that, while whole population screening for diabetes would not be clinically nor cost effective, targeted screening in a wider context of cardiovascular risk assessment would be effective. We do not have any plans for the introduction and provision of screening for diabetes alone.

However, we have introduced the NHS Health Check programme which will assess people's risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes and will support people to reduce or manage that risk through individually tailored advice. This programme is for the whole population between 40-74 that is not already on a disease register for cardiovascular disease, diabetes or kidney disease.

To ensure that it contributes to tackle health inequalities, the programme has been designed so that the risk assessment element can be undertaken in a variety of settings, including community pharmacy. Phased implementation of the programme began in April and some primary care trusts (PCTs) have com[illegible]d services from community pharmacies.

To help PCTs commission the NHS Health Check programme from community pharmacies, we have been working with a number of organisations, including those representing pharmacy, to develop a number of tools. With the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, a national template has been designed to help PCTs commission the programme from community pharmacy and is available at

www.pcc.nhs.uk/302

In association with Primary Care Contracting, a Primary Care Service Framework has been developed to assist PCTs in commissioning the NHS Health Check programme from a number of providers including community pharmacy and is available at:

www.pcc.nhs.uk/news/531

Community pharmacists are well placed to support people diagnosed with diabetes to manage their condition effectively and many are doing so. Community pharmacy can provide a range of services from blood glucose testing, blood pressure management, safe use of medicines to providing healthy lifestyle advice.

Drugs: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of counterfeit *(a)* medicines and *(b)* devices have been discovered in the supply chain in each of the last four years. [289451]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since 2004, there have been 15 incidents of counterfeit medicines and 13 of counterfeit medical devices discovered in the United Kingdom supply chain. 10 incidents of counterfeit medicines reached pharmacy and patient level and led to the products being recalled. All 13 incidents of counterfeit medical devices reached patient level and action was taken to remove the products from the supply chain and inform the public.

	2004-05	*2005-0*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Medicines (reaching patient level)	2	1	2	4	0	1	10
Medicines (discovered in supply chain before reaching patient)	0	3	1	1	0	0	5
Total medicines	2	4	3	5	0	1	15
Devices	0	3	1	5	2	2	13

No fatalities or serious adverse reactions have been attributed to counterfeit medicines in the UK.

Although this represents a fraction of the 850 million prescriptions dispensed annually in the UK, or over 93,000 different types of medical devices on the market, the Government take the issue of counterfeit medical products very seriously.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has implemented a comprehensive anti-counterfeiting strategy which focuses on reducing the availability of counterfeit medical products in the UK.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent advice he has received on the possible relationship between incidence of childhood leukaemia and exposure to extremely low frequency electrical and magnetic fields; and if he will make a statement. [290042]

Gillian Merron: The Department has received advice from the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (SAGE). SAGE is a group of stakeholders representing sectors engaged with electricity transmission, regulation, property valuation, academic research and public concern campaigning. The remit of SAGE is to explore the implications for a precautionary approach to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (ELF/EMF) and to make practical recommendations to Government. SAGE's First Interim Assessment: Power Lines and Property, Wiring in Homes and Electrical Equipment in Homes considered two sources of EMF: high voltage overhead power lines and electrical wiring and equipment inside the home and was published in April 2007.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advised Government on the SAGE First Interim Assessment in October 2007. The HPA's advice is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1204276682532?p=1207897920036.

The reply from the former Minister of State can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthprotection/DH_4089500.

I will be issuing a written statement on the Government's response to the SAGE First Interim Assessment very shortly on behalf of myself and my hon. Friends the Minister of State at the Department of Energy and Climate Change (Lord Hunt of Kings Heath), and the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Austin).

Employment Tribunals Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times his Department has been taken to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; what the reason cited in each case was; and in how many cases the tribunal found in favour of *(a)* the employee and *(b)* the Department. [290442]

Phil Hope: As detailed in the following table, in the last five years the Department has been taken to an employment tribunal twice.

The case in 2007-08 reason was one of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, found in favour of the Department.

The case in 2005-06 reason was one of discrimination on the grounds of disability, found in favour of the claimant.

	Number of cases	*Reason cited*	*Found in favour of*
2009-10	[1]0	n/a	n/a
2008-09	0	n/a	n/a
2007-08	1	Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation	Department of Health
2006-07	0	n/a	n/a
2005-06	1	Discrimination on the grounds of disability	Claimant

[1] No cases from the current financial year have proceeded to tribunal to date.

Epilepsy

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department has on levels of misdiagnosis of epilepsy in *(a)* the general population and *(b)* the prison population; [289957]

(2) what information his Department has on the number of people with epilepsy who have been diagnosed by an epilepsy specialist in *(a)* the general population and *(b)* the prison population. [289960]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people diagnosed by an epilepsy specialist is not collected centrally.

Information on the level of misdiagnosis for epilepsy is not collected.

In July, I wrote to all strategic health authorities drawing their attention to the report "Epilepsy in England: Time for Change", which was published by Epilepsy Action earlier this year. In my letter, I also reinforced the importance of implementing the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance and the National Service Framework for Long-term neurological Conditions in delivering high quality, accessible services for those living with epilepsy.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information his Department has on the number of people with epilepsy who have had a medical review in the last 12 months in *(a)* the general population and *(b)* the prison population; [289958]

(2) what information his Department has on the number of people with epilepsy who have uncontrolled seizures in *(a)* the general population and *(b)* the prison population. [289959]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people with epilepsy who have uncontrolled seizures is not collected.

Information on the number of people with epilepsy who have had a medical review in the last 12 months is not collected.

In July, I wrote to all strategic health authorities drawing their attention to the report "Epilepsy in England: Time for Change", which was published by Epilepsy Action earlier this year. In my letter, I also reinforced the importance of implementing the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance and the National Service Framework for Long-term neurological Conditions in delivering high quality, accessible services for those living with epilepsy.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Care Quality Commission plans to undertake a review of the care of people in prison with epilepsy. [289965]

Phil Hope: Following consultation, the Care Quality Commission published in June 2009 their forthcoming programme of special reviews. A review of the care of people in prison with epilepsy is not currently within the agreed list of topics to start in 2009-10.

The Commission has informed us that it is considering what topics should be undertaken as special reviews and studies from 2010-11 and what consultation process would help inform its final decisions. A special review on the health and social care needs of offenders is one of many potential topics under consideration.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are taken to identify people with epilepsy on entry into *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions; [289953]

(2) how many people in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions have epilepsy; [289954]

(3) what guidance his Department provides to staff in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions on the care of people with epilepsy; [289955]

(4) what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which the care of people in prison with epilepsy is in accordance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines of 2004. [289961]

Phil Hope: There has been no centrally commissioned research or audit on this matter. Local primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for assuring the quality of care provided in primary care settings to their local population, which includes all publicly run prisons.

All clinical staff are regulated and subject to the same standards of practice including those providing care in prisons. The standards of care are found in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance CG20. The standards of care expressed in the New General Medical Services Quality Outcomes Framework will be monitored, as they are in general practice, across the prison estate following the roll out of a general practitioner clinical IT system.

The Department of Health and the Prison Reform Trust have recently published two new information books for prisoners with a disability. Copies have been placed in the Library. The first book is a short, easy-read version for prisoners with learning difficulties, the second book contains more in depth detail for prisoners on their health, daily life, and how to get help in prison and on release this includes information on epilepsy.

Since 2006, PCTs have been responsible for commissioning health services for their offender health population. In commissioning these services, the NICE guidelines for epilepsy provides the benchmark for providers of these services.

The Department does not collect information on the number of people in prisons and young offender institutions that have epilepsy.

Offenders are now all screened on arrival in prison by a trained nurse or trained officer to find out what their health needs are and get them the right treatment. All new offenders entering prison reception either on remand or sentenced, have an initial health assessment undertaken to ensure that any immediate health needs are identified on the first night with a fuller comprehensive health assessment completed within five days of admission into custody.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department has on levels of incorrect prescription of medication for people with epilepsy in *(a)* the general population and *(b)* the prison population. [289956]

Ann Keen: Information on incorrect prescribing of medication for those with epilepsy is not collected.

In July, I wrote to all strategic health authorities drawing their attention to the report "Epilepsy in England: Time for Change", which was published by Epilepsy Action earlier this year. In my letter, I also reinforced the importance of implementing the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance and the National Service Framework for Long-term neurological Conditions in delivering high quality, accessible services for those living with epilepsy.

Food Standards Agency: Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by the Food Standards Agency. [289925]

Gillian Merron: The display energy certificate for the Food Standards Agency can be found on the Office of Government Commerce website:

www.ogc.gov.uk/government_delivery_display_energy_certificate_data.asp

From the table one can obtain the relevant record number which allows viewing of the buildings advisory report which can be found on the following website:

www.ndepcregister.com

This response only covers the agency's property in England where it is the major occupier, that is Aviation House in Holborn.

Food: Infant Milk

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place to ensure the marketing of breast-milk is in accordance with the international code of marketing of breastmilk. [289571]

Gillian Merron: The marketing of breast-milk substitutes must comply with the European directive on infant formula and follow on formula 2006/141/EC, which reflects the principles of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. This sets out rules about the composition, labelling and advertising of formula.

The Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula (England) Regulations 2007 implement the provisions of this directive and prohibit the advertising of infant formula to the general public. The impact of these measures on the way follow-on formula is advertised and presented is currently being reviewed by an independent panel of experts.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what running costs have been incurred and how many patients have been treated at the Central and North West London national problem gambling clinic since its opening in November 2008. [292316]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is a matter for Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Dame Ruth Runciman, Chair of Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's inquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

General Practitioners

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England are closed at lunchtimes on weekdays. [289429]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on general practitioner practices' opening hours is not collected centrally. Practices are required to include in their practice leaflets the opening hours of practice premises and the method of obtaining access to services throughout core hours. Practices can also place this information on the NHS Choices website.

General Practitioners: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors were employed by West Hertfordshire primary care trust *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [289444]

Phil Hope: The number of doctors employed by West Hertfordshire primary care trust (PCT) for 2002 when PCTs were first established and for 2008 which is the latest data available, is shown in the following table.

General and personal medical services and hospital and community health services: All Doctors[1] within specified PCTs

Numbers (headcount)

		Of which:	
As at 30 September each year	*All Doctors*	*Medical staff*	*General practitioners*
2008			
West Hertfordshire PCT	456	21	435
2002			
Dacorum PCT	102	3	99
Hertsmere PCT	69	3	66
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT	97	3	94
Watford and Three Rivers PCT	122	1	121

Notes:

1. Excludes medical Hospital Practitioners and medical Clinical Assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.

2. *Data quality*

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 National Health Service trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Genetics

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided for translations research on single-gene disorders since the publication of the genetics White Paper in 2003. [291770]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Actual and planned expenditure on single gene disorder (SGD) research: 2003-14

Departmental funding stream	*Start date*	*End date*	*Expenditure to date (£ million)*	*Planned expenditure (£ million)*
Genetics White Paper: gene therapy research programme	2004	2010	3	—
National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centres	2007	2009	2.3	n/a
NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research Care	2007	2010	—	0.05
NIHR Health Technology Assessment	2005	2013	1.4	1.8
NIHR New and Emerging Applications of Technology	2006	2009	0.3	—
NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research	2009	2014	—	2
NIHR Research for Patient Benefit	2010	2012	—	0.2

Actual and planned expenditure on single gene disorder (SGD) research: 2003-14

Departmental funding stream	*Start date*	*End date*	*Expenditure to date (£ million)*	*Planned expenditure (£ million)*
Policy Research Programme	2006	2010	—	[1]5.8

n/a = not available

[1] This figure includes the total funding allocated by the Department to the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. Only one of the Unit's five work streams is relevant to SGD but we do not have the means separately to identify the cost of that work stream.

Note:

Planned expenditure figures are a snapshot of the position at September 2009. Actual expenditure in future years will depend on a number of presently unknown factors, including the possible allocation of funds to new studies.

The NIHR Clinical Research Network is additionally providing national health service research infrastructure support to 16 SGD-related studies.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) also invests in genomic research and genomic medicine. The MRC receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Haemophilia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the involvement of people affected by haemophilia in the consultation process for the re-tendering of the national contract for clotting factors for patients with haemophilia. [290517]

Gillian Merron: Work is under way with NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency to tender for new national contracts for blood clotting factors, which will commence from April 2010.

As part of the consultation process the Haemophilia Society (which represents patients affected by haemophilia) have been intensively involved in the planning stages of this contract and are also facilitating patient representation in the evaluation of products which will form part of the decision-making process.

In addition, a series of workshops are currently being rolled out across the national health service to ensure as wide as possible consultation is carried out prior to commencing these contacts this will representation of patients through their clinicians and directly through the Haemophilia Society.

Health Visitors

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of qualified health visitors aged *(a)* between 20 and 30 years, *(b)* between 31 and 40 years, *(c)* between 41 and 50 years, *(d)* between 51 and 60 years and *(e)* 60 years and over who are not presently practising. [289309]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect this information.

Data about lapsed registered health visiting qualifications in England are held by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Strategic health authorities in partnership with the Department are considering currently the feasibility of developing a Return to Practice programme for their areas.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of health visitors were *(a)* male and *(b)* female in each year since 1997. [289387]

Ann Keen: The numbers are given in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England by gender as at 30 September each specified year

	headcount and percentage headcount					
	All staff	*Male*	*Female*	*Unknown*	*% Male*	*% Female*
1997	12,410	140	12,270	0	1.1	98.9
1998	12,572	164	12,071	337	1.3	98.7
1999	12,800	189	12,260	351	1.5	98.5
2000	12,827[1]	185	12,179	463	1.5	98.5
2001	13,053	180	12,310	563	1.4	98.6
2002	12,774	165	12,149	460	1.3	98.7
2003	12,984	151	12,309	524	1.2	98.8
2004	13,303	173	12,517	613	1.4	98.6
2005	12,818	173	12,191	454	1.4	98.6
2006	12,034	176	11,507	351	1.5	98.5
2007	11,569	139	11,140	290	1.2	98.8
2008	11,190	127	10,704	359	1.2	98.8

Note:

Percentages are based on the numbers of staff whose gender is known. The gender of bank staff is not collected.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of health visitors were from black and minority ethnic groups in each year since 1997. [289388]

Ann Keen: The numbers are given in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Health visitors in England by ethnic group as at 30 September each specified year

	Old ethnic codes				
	White	*Black*	*Asian*	*Other*	*Unknown*
1997	9,802	535	155	443	1,475
1998	10,184	601	178	278	1,331
1999	10,511	624	208	266	1,216
2000	10,511	624	208	268	1,216
2001	6,754	391	147	134	512
2002	3,929	154	49	79	317
2003	2,381	149	32	38	112
2004	348	14	5	4	13
2005	214	80	4	5	10
2006	108	29	7	1	16
2007[2]	32	14	7	0	8
2008	23	11	4	0	4

	New ethnic codes								
	White	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or black British*	*Chinese*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total ethnic minority groups[1] (%)*	*All groups*
1997	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.4	12,410

	New ethnic codes								
	White	*Mixed*	*Asian or Asian British*	*Black or black British*	*Chinese*	*Other*	*Unknown*	*Total ethnic minority groups[1] (%)*	*All groups*
1998	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.4	12,572
1999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.2	12,800
2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.5	12,827
2001	3,750	16	53	224	28	45	999	9.0%	13,053
2002	6,396	41	157	339	53	48	1,218	8.2%	12,774
2003	8,229	35	119	467	64	57	1,281	8.5%	12,984
2004	10,680	75	170	699	79	86	1,130	9.3%	13,303
2005	10,579	72	170	685	76	74	849	9.7%	12,818
2006	10,027	81	164	705	73	70	733	10.0%	12,034
2007[2]	9,449	70	169	983	71	59	707	12.6%	11,569
2008	9,156	68	178	728	68	57	893	10.8%	11,190

[1] "Unknown" includes unstated and unrecorded ethnic group. The ethnic group of all bank staff is not recorded.

[2] We are aware of the apparent increase in the numbers of black/black British health visitors in 2007 then subsequent decrease in 2008. We have analysed this data from a number of different perspectives and have concluded that there is not a single cause for this. Data is now extracted from Electronic Staff Record and this has improved on data quality from previous years. Percentages are calculated on the numbers of staff whose ethnic group is known.

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of student health visitors became qualified health visitors in each of the last five years. [289966]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply

The Department does not hold information down to the level of health visitor students. Higher Education Statistics Agency information on the number of students who qualified from nursing courses, the category within which health visitor students are included, has been provided as an alternative.

The proportion of nursing students who became qualified is not available.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average vacancy rate for health visitors in each primary care trust was in the latest period for which figures are available. [289310]

Phil Hope: The vacancy rate for health visitors by primary care trust has been placed in the Library.

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of home help contact hours in each region were provided by *(a)* council authorities and *(b)* the independent sector according to the results of his Department's home help returns in the latest period for which figures are available; [289449]

(2) if he will publish the results of the 2008 home help returns for each *(a)* region, *(b)* shire county, *(c)* unitary authority and *(d)* metropolitan district. [289450]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of people receiving home care/home help services during a sample week in September each year is collected on the HHI return and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The following table shows the percentage of home help contact hours in each region provided by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) and the independent sector during the sample week in September 2008.

	Hours provided	*Percentage of hours*	
Region	*All sectors*	*CASSR*	*Independent*
North East	242,300	18.7	81.3
North West	848,900	21.9	78.1
Yorkshire and The Humber	391,300	30.4	69.6
East Midlands	352,900	22.2	77.8
West Midlands	426,200	17.8	82.2
South West	352,000	19.6	80.4
Eastern	442,800	14.6	85.4
London	506,700	11.9	88.1
South East	519,800	12.6	87.4
England	4,082,900	18.7	81.3

Source:
HHI return, table 1.1.

The full HHI data for 2008—the latest available—has been published and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/adult-social-care-information/community-care-statistics-2008:-help-care-services-for-adults-england

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Hospices: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each hospice funded by his Department has received from his Department in the latest period for which figures are available; and what criteria his Department uses to determine its funding allocations to hospices. [289551]

Phil Hope: Funding for hospices comes from primary care trusts (PCTs), not from the Department. It is for individual PCTs to decide the level of funding they allocate to hospices, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for negotiation between the local PCT and the hospice.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data NHS trusts are required to collect to monitor levels of *(a)* use of mixed-sex accommodation and *(b)* standards of privacy and dignity provided for patients. [291785]

Phil Hope: Annually, the national adult in-patient survey conducted by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is used to measure patient experience relating to mixed sex accommodation and privacy and dignity. Nationally, there is no requirement to monitor occurrences of mixed sex accommodation.

The 2009-10 NHS Standard Contract for Acute Hospital Services states:

> "The Provider shall have a Mixed Sex Accommodation Reduction Plan, and shall comply with its obligations under that plan."

The definition of such a plan is:

> "The plan agreed in accordance with the Law and Guidance between the provider and the co-ordinating commissioner which sets out obligations, timescales and performance monitoring mechanisms to deliver substantial reductions in the number of patients sharing with members of the opposite sex sleeping or sanitary accommodation owned or controlled by the provider or a sub-contractor."

Because the Department is committed to keep patient experience at the heart of delivery, ahead of the next (2009) CQC annual in-patient survey outcome, it is currently exploring with strategic health authorities, arrangements that would provide indications of progress by the local national health service in delivering same-sex accommodation.

Hospitals: Energy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of A-rated circulator pumps which are installed in NHS hospitals; [291788]

(2) what energy efficiency standards his Department has stipulated for circulator pumps in its guidance on private finance initiative projects. [291789]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect data centrally on the number of A-rated circulator pumps installed in national health service hospitals in England.

All capital development schemes, whether private finance initiative or publicly funded projects, are expected to comply with energy efficiency standards of 35 to 55 gigajoules per one hundred metres squared (Gj/100m^2), and also with BREEAM Healthcare requirements (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) to ensure healthcare facilities are constructed with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind. The Department provides guidance to assist the NHS and their partners in meeting this criteria.

This information is contained in the guidance document "Health Technical Memorandum 07-02: Encode—making energy work in healthcare", a copy of which has been placed in the Library, and which provides general energy efficiency standards within health-care facilities. This guidance covers new build and refurbishment as well as the energy management of existing operational facilities and provides advice about pumps, fans and boilers. Capital project teams will make their own decisions about specific items of equipment, such as circulator pumps, to ensure they are appropriate to meet the needs, circumstances and efficiency of their particular schemes.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a hip replacement operation has been in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England in each year since 2001. [289332]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Median time waited (days) for hip replacement operations for Sunderland Primary Care Trust and England are shown in the following table:

	Sunderland Primary Care Trust	*England*
2001-02	337	220
2002-03	283	229
2003-04	223	217
2004-05	227	182
2005-06	167	158
2006-07	165	140
2007-08	147	107

Notes:

1. Time waited data has been provided where the main operation was a hip replacement operation.
2. Operative procedure codes were revised for 2006-07 and 2007-08. The 2008-09 and 2007-08 data uses OPCS 4.4 codes, 2006-07 data uses OPCS 4.3 codes, data prior to 2006-07 uses OPCS 4.2 codes. All codes that were in OPCS 4.2 remain in later OPCS 4 versions, however the introduction of OPCS 4.3 codes enable the recording of interventions and procedures which were not possible in OPCS 4.2. In particular, OPCS 4.3 and OPCS 4.4 codes include high cost drugs and diagnostic imaging, testing and rehabilitation. Some activity may have been coded under different codes in OPCS 4.2. These changes need to be borne in mind when analysing time series and may explain some apparent variations over time. Please note that care needs to be taken in using the newer codes as some providers of data were unable to start using the new codes at the beginning of each data year.
3. The quality and coverage of HES data have improved over time. The improvements in information submitted by the national health service have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
4. Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period, whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

Source:

Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Incontinence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many universities offer *(a)* pre- and *(b)* post-registration courses for nurses on continence education and training. [289452]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally. For pre-registration education, the United Kingdom regulatory body, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, sets standards of proficiency for all nursing courses.

Although continence is not identified separately, its management is implicit within several of the essential nursing skills which are required to be demonstrated.

Post-registration training is the responsibility of employers, who are best placed to understand the roles and responsibilities—and hence the training needs—of their staff. Specific post-registration training courses in continence and continence care are available and these are accessed according to local need.

Infant Mortality

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most common cause of infant mortality is. [291646]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked it to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most common cause of infant mortality is. (291646)

Infant mortality is defined as death under one year after live birth, and can be divided into neonatal deaths (less than 28 days after live birth) and postneonatal deaths (28 days but under one year). In England and Wales, neonatal deaths are registered using a special perinatal death certificate which enables reporting of relevant diseases or conditions in both the infant and the mother. For postneonatal deaths, a single underlying cause of death can be reported as for adults. ONS has developed a classification system producing broad cause groups to enable direct comparison of neonatal and postneonatal deaths.

Using this ONS classification, the most common cause of infant deaths is 'Immaturity related conditions'. This includes certain respiratory, cardiovascular and other conditions related primarily to the prematurity or low birthweight of the infant. In 2007 (the latest year for which figures are available), there were 1,346 infant deaths coded to 'Immaturity related conditions', 42 per cent of all infant deaths in England and Wales in that year.

Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with a learning disability have been referred for further treatment as a result of an annual health check in the latest period for which figures are available [290203]

(2) how many practising GPs have *(a)* had training and *(b)* been accredited to provide health checks to people with a learning disability. [290206]

Ann Keen: This information is held at local level and is not available centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* evaluate the effect of direct enhanced service annual health checks on people with a learning disability; [290204]

(2) how many people with a learning disability have had a health check in the last 12 months. [290205]

Phil Hope: We have commissioned an extraction of data from a sample of general practitioner (GP) practice clinical systems. This information will be used to inform the continued commissioning of this Directed Enhanced Service through the GP contract arrangements.

We will also collect information to support a newly agreed Vital Sign indicator on the number of health checks completed in 2008-09. This will begin in October. This exercise will be repeated in May 2010 to collect retrospective information on the number of checks completed in 2009-10.

Liver Diseases

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients were admitted to each hospital in the East of England as a consequence of *(a)* alcoholic liver disease and *(b)* cirrhosis of the liver in each of the last 10 years; [291482]

(2) how many patients were admitted to hospital as a consequence of *(a)* alcoholic liver disease and *(b)* cirrhosis of the liver in each of the last 10 years. [291483]

Gillian Merron: Data on the number of patients admitted for alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis of the liver for the last 10 years to each hospital in the East of England are not available. However, the following tables provide the number of admissions to hospital for alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis of the liver for the last 10 years in England and for each hospital provider for the East of England strategic health authority.

When considering this data, it is important to note the following:

that data for 2008-09 is provisional;

to protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk) and where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been also been suppressed;

that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year; and

K70, the ICD-10 code for alcoholic liver disease, was used to identify admissions due to alcoholic liver disease, while K70.3, K71.7, K74.3-K74.6 and A52.7 with K77.0 were the ICD-10 codes used to identify admissions due to cirrhosis of the liver.

Table 1: Number of finished admission episodes for alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis of the liver for 1999-2000 to 2008-09 for each hospital provider for the East of England strategic health authority has been placed in the Library.

Table 2: Number of finished admission episodes for alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis of the liver in England for 1999-2000 to 2008-09

	Admission for alcoholic liver disease	*Admission for cirrhosis of the liver*
2008-09[1]	14,239	8,773
2007-08	14,461	8,549
2006-07	14,668	8,511
2005-06	13,930	7,834
2004-05	13,201	6,979
2003-04	12,336	6,482
2002-03	11,560	6,056
2001-02	10,802	5,859
2000-01	10,311	5,655

Table 2: Number of finished admission episodes for alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis of the liver in England for 1999-2000 to 2008-09

	Admission for alcoholic liver disease	*Admission for cirrhosis of the liver*
1999-2000	10,098	5,716

[1] Provisional data.

Notes:

1. *Finished admission episodes:*

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. *Primary diagnosis:*

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

3. *Provisional data:*

The 2008-09 data is provisional and may be incomplete or contain errors for which no adjustments have yet been made. Counts produced from provisional data are likely to be lower than those generated for the same period in the final dataset. This shortfall will be most pronounced in the final month of the latest period i.e. November from the (month 9) April to November extract. It is also probable that clinical data are not complete, which may in particular affect the last two months of any given period. There may also be a variety of errors due to coding inconsistencies that have not yet been investigated and corrected.

4. *Secondary diagnosis:*

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

5. *Data quality:*

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

6. *Assessing growth through time:*

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Maternity Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS maternity services in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [291713]

Phil Hope: Information is not collected in the format requested. In the following table we show information on maternity expenditure by the primary care trusts (PCT) that cover the York and North Yorkshire area. In 2006-07, the Selby and York, Hambleton and Richmond, Craven, Harrowgate and Rural District, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCTs amalgamated to form the North Yorkshire and York PCT.

Purchase of secondary health care—maternity services 2004-05 to 2007-08

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*£000* *2007-08*
North Yorkshire and York PCT	—	—	22,434	27,100
Selby and York PCT	5,228	5,562	—	—
Hambleton and Richmond PCT	3,241	3,195	—	—
Craven, Harrowgate and Rural District PCT	6,126	6,167	—	—
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT	1,341	1,450	—	—
Total	15,936	16,374	22,434	27,100
England	1,544,838	1,677,204	1,616,777	1,786,896

Note:

Where possible any inter PCT expenditure is eliminated to avoid double counting in the England figures.

Source:

Primary care trust audited summarisation schedules

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times hospitals in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England closed maternity units to expectant mothers in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [291796]

Phil Hope: Information is not collected centrally on the number of maternity unit closures.

Patients from the Vale of York and North Yorkshire access obstetric care at the Friarage hospital, but there are also women who receive their obstetric care from the James Cook University hospital in Middlesbrough. There has been one occasion when maternity services have closed for a significant amount of time. This is the closure of the Friarage hospital between the 17 July 2009 and the 26 October 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to reply to the letter of 15 June 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr A I Ul Haq. [290234]

Phil Hope: A reply was sent to Sir Gerald Kaufman, the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 27 July 2009.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what systems are in place to address non-adherence to treatment or medication amongst mental health service users; and what information his Department holds on the number of mental health services where these systems are applied; [290318]

(2) how many serious untoward incidents where treatment or medication adherence was a contributing factor there have been in the last 12 months. [290319]

Phil Hope: The information requested about serious untoward incidents and treatment or medication adherence is not held centrally.

There are no national systems in place that are specific to addressing non-adherence to treatment or medication. However, non-adherence is a key issue in mental health risk assessment and as such should, where appropriate, form part of a service user's care plan. The introduction of supervised community treatment helps to ensure that service users get the right treatment at the right time and will help with adherence.

This represents a 52 per cent. decrease between the first quarter of 2006 and the first quarter of 2009.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data his Department collects on the availability of low, medium and high secure beds in the independent sector; and if he will make a statement. [290244]

Phil Hope: There are no high secure beds in the independent sector. High secure services can only be provided under licence by the Secretary of State, and such licences can only be granted to national health service trusts approved for this purpose.

Information is not collected centrally on the availability of low and medium secure beds in the independent sector.

Mental Health Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated for provision of mental health services in west Hertfordshire for 2009-10. [289409]

Phil Hope: Funding is allocated to primary care trusts and they are responsible for commissioning services, including mental health services to meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what locations in Hertfordshire severely mentally impaired children may be treated; and what choice parents have about the location at which treatment is provided. [289411]

Phil Hope: It is for primary care trusts to commission services in order to ensure that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) services are available to the children and young people for which they are responsible, taking into account the needs and wishes of the patients and their carers.

The Department provided £2.5 million capital funding to enable Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to recently refurbish a facility for children and young people being treated for mental health problems, specifically designed to eliminate the inappropriate use of adult psychiatric wards by children and young people.

The East of England Strategic Health Authority has advised that on 17 September 2009 the £7 million redevelopment of Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust was officially re-opened. This newly expanded and upgraded unit will accommodate 16 young people (up to the age of 18); with several of the beds earmarked for young people with eating disorders. This extra capacity means the trust will be able to care for the most vulnerable young people who need in-patient care within the county, and in easy reach of their families.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to implement each of the recommendations of Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system which were accepted by his Department. [290010]

Phil Hope: Lord Bradley made 82 recommendations, many of which Lord Bradley himself recognised needed further work to ensure that all implications are considered for children, young people and adults. The Government have accepted all recommendations and the direction set out in the report and has committed to publish a cross-departmental Health and Criminal Justice Strategic Delivery Plan by the end of October 2009.

A Health and Criminal Justice National Programme Board has been fully operational since June 2009 bringing together senior officials in the key departments (Department of Health, Ministry of Justice, Home Office, Department for Children, Schools and Families). The Programme Board has been meeting monthly to pull together the national delivery plan and ensure appropriate cross-government representation and engagement as actions are being developed.

The Delivery Plan will set out our shared vision for improving health and social care services for all those in touch with the criminal justice system and the newly established Health and Criminal Justice Programme Board are working hard to ensure that all the Bradley recommendations are fully incorporated into this cross-government plan.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners with acute, severe mental illnesses who have waited more than 14 days for transfer to an appropriate health-care setting in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [290012]

Phil Hope: National data on prison transfers for the current 12-week waiting standard are collected on a quarterly basis with transfer rates compared against a 2005-06 baseline. The data indicate a downward trend in prisoners waiting in excess of 12-weeks for transfers; since 2005-06, these numbers have reduced by 33 per cent.

Prisoners waiting longer than 12 weeks for mental health transfer

Date	*Number of prisoners*
April—June 2005	62
September 2005	58
October—December 2005	40
January—March 2006	43
April—June 2006	44
July—September 2006	43
October—December 2006	38
January—March 2007	44
April—June 2007	46
July—September 2007	51
October—December 2007	41
January—March 2008	24
April—June 2008	36
July—September 2008	34

Prisoners waiting longer than 12 weeks for mental health transfer

Date	*Number of prisoners*
October—December 2008	26
January—March 2009	40
April—June 2009	27

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the membership is of the national programme board responsible for developing a national approach to mental health and learning disability services for offenders; [290192]

(2) whether the Government have accepted in full the recommendation to establish a national advisory group, made in Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system. [290325]

Phil Hope: The membership of the national health and criminal justice programme board is as follows:

Name	*Organisation*
David Behan	Department of Health
Anita Barucha	HM Courts Service
Andrew Campbell	Department for Communities and Local Government
Gary Cann	Association of Chief Police Officers
Helen Edwards	Ministry of Justice
Anne Jackson	Department for Children, Schools and Families
David Lamberti	HM Treasury
Peter Lewis	Crown Prosecution Service
Peter Makeham	Home Office
Ian Cumming	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority
Harvey Redgrave	Prime Minister's Strategy Unit
Phil Wheatley	National Offender Management Service
Naomi Eisenstadt	Social Exclusion Unit
Paul Williams	NHS Wales
To be confirmed	Chair, Advisory Group

The Government have fully accepted Lord Bradley's recommendation that a national advisory group be established to support Ministers and the health and criminal justice programme board in their development of this agenda. The cross-departmental national health and criminal justice programme board has been fully operational since June 2009 and alongside officials, has been developing arrangements for the set up of the national advisory group. The membership of the national advisory group is currently being agreed by Ministers and will be confirmed shortly.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken since the publication of Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system to increase the rate of transfer of prisoners with severe mental illnesses from prison to secure hospital settings; and if he will make a statement. [290243]

Phil Hope: The Government recognise the importance of ensuring that prisoners with severe mental illness who require treatment in hospital have timely access to that treatment. The Government's response of 30 April 2009 to Lord Bradley's Report accepted in principle the direction in respect of 14-day prison transfers.

The Government are considering the feasibility of introducing a 14-day transfer standard. A specific project to address prison transfers has been established, this is focusing on the provision of guidance and support to the national health service and criminal justice system to ensure transfers happen both smoothly and as quickly as possible. The Government will make a further report to Parliament in the autumn.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days were recorded for patients aged *(a)* 16 and *(b)* 17 years on adult psychiatric wards in each quarter of the last three years. [291934]

Phil Hope: It is not possible to disaggregate the figures for 16 and 17-year-olds but the following table gives the number of 16 to 17-year olds in England who were treated on adult psychiatric wards in each quarter for the past three years.

	Quarter	*Bed days—16/17s on psychiatric adult ward*
2006-07	1	4,697
	2	4,780
	3	4,679
	4	4,511
2007-08	1	3,954
	2	3,893
	3	4,255
	4	4,926
2008-09	1	4,019
	2	3,713
	3	2,854
	4	3,101
2009-10	1	2,260

This represents a 52 per cent. decrease between the first quarter of 2006 and the first quarter of 2009.

Mental Health: Prisoners

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners diagnosed with serious mental illnesses since July 2000; and if he will make a statement. [290011]

Phil Hope: Although there are no officially recognised data on prisoners with severe mental illness, we are aware that there is a significant number of people in custody suffering from serious mental illness. A review of mental health in reach teams for the National Institute for Health Research in 2008 suggested that around 23 per cent., of the prison population suffer from severe mental illness.

The Government will be publishing its response to Lord Bradley's review of people with mental health problems and learning disabilities in the criminal justice system in the autumn as part of a wider ranging offender health strategic delivery plan. This response will include the Government's plans for improving mental health care for prisoners.

Methadone: Prisoners

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to suspend methadone prescriptions for prisoners in prisons where the drug rehabilitation programme is based on abstinence. [291958]

Phil Hope: No. In line with the National Treatment Agency guidance, when matching treatment to individual need, both treatment (such as methadone prescription) and drug rehabilitation programmes might be appropriate depending on the needs of the individual at a given time and it would not be appropriate therefore to exclude one form of treatment at the expense of another.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations took place on the introduction of methadone prescriptions for prisoners. [291959]

Phil Hope: Since at least 1995 methadone has been recommended as one of a number of possible treatments for the management of drug dependence in prison.

The current clinical guidelines are "Clinical Management of Drug Dependence in the Adult Prison Setting" which was published in December 2006, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The document aimed to address the current challenges facing the care and treatment of substance misusers in prisons including: the need to provide clinical interventions that harmonise with practice in community and other criminal justice settings, meet the individual's need and address the vulnerability of drug-using prisoners to suicide and self-harm in prison, and to death upon release from custody due to accidental opiate overdose.

The document was developed in consultation with key Government Departments, professional organisations, commissioning organisations and service providers including:

HM Prison Service;
Department of Health;
Home Office;
National Treatment Agency;
National Addiction Centre;
National Offender Management Service Drug Strategy Unit;
Prison Officers Association;
Royal College of Psychiatrists; and
Royal College of General Practitioners.

The 2007 "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management" a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, contains specific information on the clinical management of drug dependence in prisons as a specific setting and is in line with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines "Drug misuse: psychosocial interventions" (NICE clinical guideline 51) and "Drug misuse: opioid detoxification" (NICE clinical guideline 52).

Midwives: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed in the National Health Service in *(a)* the Vale of York, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [291794]

Phil Hope: The numbers of midwives employed in the national health service in York Hospitals NHS Trust, North Yorkshire Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts, and England in 2005-2008 are shown in the following table:

NHS hospital and community health services: Midwives in England, Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority and North Yorkshire Primary Care Trusts and NHS Trusts

	Headcount as at 30 September each specified year			
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	24,808	24,469	25,093	25,664
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	2,539	2,445	2,449	2,472
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	62	65	70	71
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	74	76	75	71
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT	1	—	—	—
York Hospitals NHS Trust	129	125	131	130

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

MMR Vaccine

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of children under the age of five years received two doses of MMR vaccine in each quarter of the last 10 years. [289314]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency collect and publish quarterly provisional data on the proportion of the population who are vaccinated at five years of age with a second dose of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR).

Percentage of five year olds (England) who have received two doses of MMR

	Quarter 1	*Quarter 2*	*Quarter 3*	*Quarter 4*
1999-2000	77.5	77.1	75.6	75.7
2000-01	74.5	73.9	74.7	75.5
2001-02	73.8	73.0	73.6	73.8
2002-03	74.3	74.4	73.7	73.9
2003-04	75.0	75.1	75.6	75.1
2004-05	74.4	73.5	72.9	73.9
2005-06[1]	74.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07[1]	n/a	72.9	73.0	73.2
2007-08	73.5	73.1	72.8	74.3
2008-09	75.2	76.3	77.4	80.0

[1] 2005-06—last three quarters and 2006-07 first quarter—national data not estimated due to missing data for 10 of the 31 London primary care trusts (PCTs) due to problems relating to the implementation of new child health IT system. Coverage estimates are always significantly lower in London compared to all other regions in England therefore to calculate an England estimate without these PCTs would have given a spurious increase in coverage.

Muscular Dystrophy

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include in the forthcoming Health White Paper proposals for ring-fenced funding for

Duchenne muscular dystrophy research and clinical trials. [291768]

Gillian Merron: There are no plans to change the usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the Medical Research Council, not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics: research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Future levels of expenditure on Duchenne muscular dystrophy research will be determined by the success of relevant bids for funding.

Muscular Dystrophy: Continuing Care

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the provision of continuing care for people with *(a)* Duchenne muscular dystrophy and *(b)* other single-gene disorders. [291767]

Phil Hope: A revised "National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care" was published in August 2009. This framework covers those with Duchenne's muscular dystrophy and other single-gene disorders as the eligibility criteria for continuing care is not disease specific. A copy of the framework has been placed in the Library.

National School for Social Care Research

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research the National School for Social Care Research has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* published since its establishment; and what research projects are ongoing at that school. [290391]

Gillian Merron: The National Institute of Health Research's School for Social Care Research became operational on 1 April 2009 and published its first call for research proposals in July. The school has begun a small number of preliminary studies, but none has reached the publication stage.

More information about the school and its research activities can be found on-line at:

www.lse.ac.uk/collections/NIHRSSCR/.

NHS Litigation Authority

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the largest *(a)* absolute and *(b)* percentage reduction in costs to the public purse was following successful taxation of claimant costs in cases involving the NHS Litigation Authority in each of the last five years; and which solicitor's firm was involved in each case. [289838]

Phil Hope: The information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost, as it would involve the NHS Litigation Authority working through each and every claim received within the five-year period.

NHS: Complaints

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has provided to the Carers Federation to administer the Independent Complaints Advocacy Service in the East Midlands in each year since the service was launched in September 2003. [292390]

Phil Hope: The Department's current contract with The Carers Federation started in April 2006. A yearly breakdown of funding from the Department to the Carers Federation to administer the independent complaints advocacy service in the East Midlands from September 2003 is as follows:

Financial year	*Amount paid (£)*
2003-04	353,470
2004-05	836,478
2005-06	771,404
2006-07	1,117,657
2007-08	1,073,847
2008-09	1,102,167

NHS: Correspondence

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the annual cost to NHS hospitals of complying with his Department's copying letters policy; and what proportion of NHS patients chose to opt out of the policy. [290091]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect information on the annual cost of copying letters to patients or on the numbers of patients that choose to opt out of receiving copies of their letters.

NHS: Cost Effectiveness

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the report commissioned by his Department from McKinsey and Co. on NHS efficiency savings. [292108]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The report McKinsey provided on how to deliver efficiency savings in the national health service was commissioned by officials in February 2009. Neither the Prime Minister or Ministers were informed of the commission or sighted on the advice. Ministers were informed following initial media inquires in September 2009. Ministers rejected the main proposals in the report. The information has been commissioned for internal NHS management consideration and is not intended for publication. It is therefore not appropriate for a copy of the report to be placed in the Library.

NHS: Costs

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* the Prime Minister were first informed of the commissioning by his Department of the study by McKinsey and Company into NHS costs, staffing and services; and when he plans to publish (i) the terms of reference of the study and (ii) its (A) interim and (B) final reports. [291490]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information McKinsey provided on national health service productivity was commissioned by officials in February. Neither my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Health or his predecessor were informed of the commission or sighted on the advice. Ministers were informed following initial media inquiries in September. Ministers rejected the main proposal in the report. The information had been commissioned for internal NHS management consideration and is not intended for publication.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 532W, on health visitors: crimes of violence, what figures his Department holds on incidents of harassment, bullying or abuse of *(a)* heath visitors and *(b)* other national health service staff by (i) patients and service users and (ii) managers. [291451]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of incidents of bullying, harassment or abuse against national health service staff is not collected centrally. This could be collected only at disproportionate cost. However, the 2008 survey of national health service staff undertaken by the Healthcare Commission provided information on staff views about working in the national health service, including experience of harassment, bullying or abuse. The relevant findings are presented in the following table.

	Percentage staff experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse from patients/relatives in last 12 months	*Percentage staff experiencing harassment, bullying or abuse from staff in last 12 months*
All Health Visitors	19	19
All NHS Staff	21	17

NHS: Drugs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 524W, on risk assessment of automatic generic drug substitution, what plans he has to undertake *(a)* a full risk benefit analysis and *(b)* other impact assessment evaluation in respect of each specific proposal; and if he will make a statement. [290156]

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects his Department to publish proposals for the implementation of generic substitution; [291537]

(2) when he plans to launch his consultation on the implementation of generic substitution. [291538]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is currently refining its proposals for the implementation of generic substitution and plans to formally consult in the autumn. An impact assessment will be published alongside the consultation document.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effects on levels of availability of pharmaceuticals in the UK of increases in exports of such pharmaceuticals consequent on the value of sterling. [291782]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have had reports from pharmaceutical manufacturers, wholesalers and pharmacy contractors of problems with the supply of medicines attributed to increased exports of medicines with the decline in value of the sterling. The Department is watching the situation with care.

NHS: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the savings which have accrued to the NHS arising from the introduction of NHS charging for those refused asylum in the UK in each year since 2004. [291808]

Phil Hope: Although total income received from chargeable overseas patients is recorded, national health service trusts do not routinely record the immigration status of patients that are treated either free or on a chargeable basis. Hence, no estimate is available of the savings accrued to the NHS from charging those refused asylum in the United Kingdom.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims were made under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available; what the combined monetary value of such claims was in each year; and what proportion of such claims *(a)* were for the recovery of the claimant's legal and other costs and *(b)* related to each clinical area in each year. [291501]

Phil Hope: The information requested was provided by the NHS Litigation Authority and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the highest ratio of claimant costs to legal costs in cases involving the NHS litigation authority in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed was in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on *(a)* claimant costs and *(b)* damages in total in relation to such cases in which claimant costs exceeded damages in each of those years. [291711]

Phil Hope: The NHS Litigation Authority does not record data specifically on legal costs, but records global costs paid by defendants and claimants, which will include legal costs, medical expert witnesses and other disbursements. To provide data specifically on legal costs would be at disproportionate cost.

The NHS Litigation Authority has provided data in the following tables that cover overall claimant costs and damages as an alternative to the information requested.

Table 1: Top highest claimant costs to damages ratio for clinical negligence claims in each of the last five years where legal proceedings were completed in those years

Year of closure	*Damages paid (£)*	*Claimant costs paid (£)*	*Proportion of costs to damages (percentage)*
2004-05	3,000.00	34,000.00	1133
2005-06	1,750.00	102,334.00	5848
2006-07	5,000.00	101,082.85	2022
2007-08	2,500.00	62,500.00	2500
2008-09	1,000.00	10,500.00	1050

Table 2: Damages and claimant costs paid on all closed clinical negligence claims where the claimant costs exceeded the damages by year of closure

Year of closure	*Damages paid (£)*	*Claimant costs paid (£)*
2004-05	9,824,545	17,135,815
2005-06	10,946,714	19,786,927
2006-07	11,852,076	20,681,500
2007-08	18,309,285	31,968,752
2008-09	16,923,244	31,569,368
Total	67,855,864	121,142,363

NHS: Pay

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 583-84W, on staff pay, how many staff received a salary of more than £100,000 in current prices in each year; and how many staff were receiving a salary of more than £100,000 on 1 April 2009. [290286]

Phil Hope: The number of the Department's staff receiving a salary of more than £100,000 in each year, expressed in prices as at 1 April 2009, is presented in the following table.

In post date as at 1 April each year	*Number of staff*
2008	76
2007	83
2006	89
2005	96
2004	99
2003	105

Salaries have been recalculated based on the changes in the consumer price index (CPI), averaged over the whole of each year and include all pay-related allowances.

Information prior to 2003 is not held centrally and can only be obtained at disproportionate cost as recalculation before that date would involve searching individual paper files.

The number of staff receiving a salary of more than £100,000 on 1 April 2009 was 74.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W, on departmental pay, how many staff *(a)* received a salary of more than £100,00 in each year since 1997, expressed in 2009 prices and *(b)* were earning more than £100,000 on 1 April 2009. [290305]

Phil Hope: The number of the Department's staff receiving a salary of more than £100,000 in each year, expressed in prices as at 1 April 2009, is presented in the following table.

In post date	*Number of staff*
1 April 2008	76
1 April 2007	83
1 April 2006	89
1 April 2005	96
1 April 2004	99
1 April 2003	105

Salaries have been recalculated based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), averaged over the whole of each year and include all pay-related allowances.

Information prior to 2003 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost as recalculation before that date would involve searching individual paper files.

The number of staff receiving a salary of more than £100,000 on 1 April 2009 was 74.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the percentage change in salary of each board member of each NHS *(a)* trust and *(b)* foundation was in each year since 2001; [291757]

(2) what *(a)* pay and *(b)* other benefits each board member of each NHS (i) trust and (ii) foundation has received in each year since 2001. [291758]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally. National health service trusts and NHS foundation trusts are public bodies, and the remuneration of their senior executive teams is a matter of public record and published in their annual accounts.

NHS trusts and foundation trusts have full responsibility for determining the rates of remuneration for their senior executive board members. Foundation trusts have full responsibility for determining the remuneration of their non-executive directors (that is, of their board members).

Pay rates for non-executive board members in NHS trusts are set centrally by the Department. The rates for all years since 2001-02 are as follows:

	Chair—scale minimum	*Chair—scale maximum*	*Non-executive director*	*Percentage increase*
2001-02	16,017	20,420	5,294	n/a
2002-03	16,017	20,420	5,294	0
2003-04	16,827	21,453	5,562	5.1
2004-05	17,164	21,882	5,673	2.0
2005-06	17,164	21,882	5,673	0
2006-07 (from 1 April 2006)	17,335	22,100	5,730	1.0
2006-07 (from 1 November 2006)	17,545	22,235	5,800	1.2
2007-08	17,773	22,524	5,875	1.3
2008-09	18,164	23,020	6,005	2.2
2009-10	18,436	23,365	6,095	1.5

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of per capita NHS spending in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England in 2009-10. [291693]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table shows the 2009-10 revenue allocations made to North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT), the sum of the allocations made to the PCTs within Yorkshire and

Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and the England total. Over 80 per cent. of national health service revenue funding was allocated directly to PCTs for 2009-10 in this way. The table also shows the 2009-10 allocation per head and the total responsible population that each of these areas covers.

SHAs also receive funding, some of which is passed to PCTs. Yorkshire and Humber SHA received £703 million for 2009-10 or £133 per head of responsible population. PCTs also receive some funding through other, smaller, allocations.

2009-10 PCT revenue allocations

	2009-10 allocation (£000)	*2009-10 allocation per head (£)*	*2009-10 responsible population*[1]
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,076,587	1,347	799,426
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA[2]	8,120,633	1,532	5,301,734
England	80,030,703	1,540	51,961,577

[1] The responsible population is the number of people permanently registered with general practitioner (GP) practices within the PCT boundary, irrespective of where the people are resident. It also includes people not registered with a GP such as prisoners, armed forces including their dependants and asylum seekers. To reconcile 'list variation' between the GP registered population and Office for National Statistics (ONS) populations for PCTs, the GP registered populations were constrained to the 2006 based ONS population projections published on 12 June 2008.

[2] SHAs do not receive allocations and the allocation shown here represents the sum of the allocations to PCTs within Yorkshire and the Humber SHA.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what medicines and patient services have been procured through a reverse e-auction in each of the last 48 months; [290388]

(2) what criteria the Purchasing and Supply Agency uses in deciding whether to use a reverse e-auction to procure medicines or services for patients; [290389]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued to the Purchasing and Supply Agency on the use of e-auctions. [290390]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) has undertaken one reverse e-auction in the last 12 months for water coolers. Information on what medicines and patient services are procured through reverse e-auctions in the national health service is not collected centrally.

The NHS PASA consider the following criteria before deciding on whether to undertake an e-auction:

an accurate and unambiguous specification of the buyer's requirement to ensure that suppliers are clear on what is required, and are bidding against the same criteria. The regulations state that the specification must be established with precision. Where your requirements cannot be established with precision, or where some elements of your requirements are negotiable, it will not be appropriate to use an e Auction;

a sufficient (proposed) spend to encourage competition and supplier participation;

a large enough pool of suppliers to ensure competition during the e Auction (and a willingness and aptitude of such suppliers to participate in electronic bidding—this can be driven by spend or the strategic importance of the contract);

availability of the goods/services - there should be no known market distortions such as shortages or surpluses as these may have an impact on e Auctions which is not beneficial to the buyer; and

there must be a credible "switching threat" —i.e. a willingness by stakeholders to switch to an alternative supplier if this is the result of the e Auction because any contract offer must be made to the winning tenderer.

No guidance has been provided to NHS PASA regarding the use of e-auctions. NHS PASA led the way in the NHS on e Tendering, e Auctions and e Sourcing. As early as 2003-04 NHS PASA instigated a pilot project on the use of e auctions in the NHS. The e Auctions managed by the Agency delivered substantial savings and the NHS continues to benefits by the appropriate use of e auctions.

NHS: Surveys

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 532W, on health visitors: crimes of violence, whether the results of NHS staff surveys are available to the NHS Security Management Service. [291450]

Phil Hope: The results of national health service staff surveys, such as the 2008 Healthcare Commission survey, are in the public domain and so are available to the NHS Security Management Service.

NHS: Telephone Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the results of his Department's consultation on the use of 0845 telephone numbers by the NHS will be published. [289568]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The results of the Department's public consultation on the use of 084 numbers in the national health service were announced on 14 September 2009. The Department's response to the consultation is available on the 'consultations' section of the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/index.htm

A copy has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 546W, on NHS: working hours, when the Department plans to communicate to the European Commission on the provisions of the Working Time (Amendment) Regulations 2009. [289638]

Phil Hope: It is expected that information will be published following receipt of the European Commission's response to the Secretary of State's original notification to the Commission of our intention to derogate and our response in accordance with the directive.

Nurses

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Family Nurse Partnership to be extended to the Huddersfield and Calderdale primary care trust area. [291800]

Phil Hope: Calderdale primary care trust has been running a Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) since September 2008. Kirklees primary care trust, which encompasses most of Huddersfield, started to test FNP in July this year.

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* admission episodes and *(b)* discharge episodes with a primary or secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies were recorded in each primary care trust area of commissioning responsibility in the Hospital Episodes Statistics database in 2007-08. [289455]

Gillian Merron: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Osteopathy

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of levels of variability across the country in levels of access for patients to *(a)* osteopathy and *(b)* other manual therapies; [289641]

(2) what procedures have been put in place to ensure primary care trusts are informed of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on low back pain of June 2009, with particular reference to the recommendation that GPs consider referral of patients to a course of manual therapy such as osteopathy. [289642]

Gillian Merron: Decisions on which treatments to provide in the best interests of patients are the responsibility of the national health service at local level taking into account the differing health needs of different communities.

To aid implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance such as that on lower back pain, NICE also develop tools, available on their website alongside the guidance, which offer advice on costings and commissioning. The guidance and tools can be accessed at

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG88

Paediatrics: Hospital Beds

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of a swine influenza pandemic and normal winter trends in hospital admissions on the availability of paediatric beds. [290009]

Gillian Merron: We continue to base our planning work with the national health service for the H1N1 pandemic on independent expert advice. The latest assumptions that we published on 3 September, assume that 1 per cent. of people who become ill with H1N1 will require hospitalisation. This would be above normal winter levels of flu activity and all NHS organisations have been planning to handle this if necessary, for both adult and paediatric services.

Measures that may be taken include the cancellation of out-patient services and elective admissions in order to free up staff and capacity to care for an increase in children admitted with H1N1.

In April this year, the Department also published guidance on "Managing Demand and Capacity in Health Care Organisations (Surge)". The document gives guidance on measures the NHS can take to handle the pressures it will face, including in providing paediatric care during a pandemic. A copy of the guidance has already been placed in the Library.

To further support local planning, on 10 September, a strategy for critical care services was published that in part set out how the NHS would work to substantially increase availability of paediatric intensive care beds should this be required at the peak of the pandemic. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely change in numbers of paediatric beds available between 2010 and 2012; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of that change on winter planning during that period. [290021]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Parkinson's Disease: Medical Treatments

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to strengthen mechanisms to improve implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical guidelines on Parkinson's disease dated 2006, in light of the relevant recommendations contained in High Quality Care for All. [289565]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have no plans to strengthen mechanisms to improve the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical guidelines on Parkinson's disease. It is the responsibility of individual health professionals to ensure they comply with all existing clinical guidelines when providing health and social care.

From April 2009, the Care Quality Commission took over from the Healthcare Commission and will consider, in discussion with stakeholders including NICE, how to take account of NICE guidance as it develops its compliance criteria.

Prescriptions

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports he has received of the prevalence of the automatic ordering of repeat prescriptions; and if he will take steps to end the practice. [290100]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am told that the Department has received one report of automatic ordering of repeat prescriptions by pharmacies. The terms of service of pharmacists (Schedule 1 of the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005) include a number of provisions relevant to this issue. For example, paragraph 10 (a) and (c) of the terms of service makes provision for pharmacists to ensure that appropriate advice is given to patients, in particular with regards to the request of repeatable prescriptions.

This is supported by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's (RPSGB) professional standards and guidance for patient consent, which makes clear that patients have a basic right to be involved in decisions about their health care and the process of obtaining consent is fundamental for patient autonomy. Obtaining consent is an on-going process and not a single event.

It is for primary care trusts to take action in relation to any breach of pharmacists' terms of service and for the RPSGB to take action in relation to any breach of professional standards.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W, on prescription: fees and charges, for what reasons the projections for revenue from prescription charges do not take account of proposals to exempt from such charges those with long-term conditions; [290227]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W, on prescription: fees and charges, for what reason the preparations for prescription charge income do not take into account his Department's proposals in relation to the exemption from prescription charges of people with long-term illnesses. [290311]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Forecasts for 2009-10 and 2010-11 in the departmental report 2009 (Cm 7593) take no account of the effect of the Government's decision to exempt patients with long term conditions from prescription charges because the cost and timeframe for the phasing in of the long term conditions exemption will depend on the recommendations set out in Professor Ian Gilmore's review, which is due to report in the autumn.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards ending prescription charges for all people with long-term medical conditions. [292141]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2167W.

Prescriptions: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the Tamworth constituency have received prescriptions without charge since such exemptions were introduced. [291466]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

The Department does not know the number of people for whom prescription items are dispensed because the information collected is based on the number of prescription items dispensed in the community. These data are not available at a constituency level. The latest data for England (for 2008) show that around 93 per cent. of prescription items were not charged for at the point of dispensing, either because the patient was not liable to pay a charge, or because they held a valid prescription pre-payment certificate.

Primary Care Trusts: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes to the amount of funding allocated to primary care trusts in Hertfordshire there have been in the course of 2009-10; and what such changes he anticipates in the course of 2010-11. [289410]

Phil Hope: Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of the populations they serve. The following table provides the revenue allocations made to East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

No changes have been made to revenue allocations during the course of 2009-10. There are no plans to change the revenue allocations for 2010-11.

£000

	Revenue allocation	
PCT	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	759,311	803,338
West Hertfordshire PCT	773,604	813,380

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts in Hertfordshire have a financial deficit against their budget for 2009-10; and how much the deficit is in each such case. [289412]

Phil Hope: Information published in the Director General for NHS Finance, Performance and Operations report "The Quarter" show that neither East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) nor West Hertfordshire PCT is forecasting a deficit in the 2009-10 financial year. The following table shows that both PCTs are forecasting a surplus.

	2009-10 quarter 1 forecast outturn (£000)
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	2,855
West Hertfordshire PCT	576

The 2009-10 and 2010-11 PCT revenue allocations represent £164 billion investment in the national health service, £80 billion in 2009-10 and £84 billion in 2010-11. PCTs received an average increase in funding of 5.5 per cent. in 2009-10 and will receive an average increase in funding of 5.5 per cent. in 2010-11, a total increase in funding of £8.6 billion.

The following table provides the two year revenue allocations made to PCTs in Hertfordshire for 2009-10 and 2010-11 along with the cash and percentage increases. East and North Hertfordshire PCT will be 0.6 per cent. under target in 2010-11, West Hertfordshire PCT will be 5.3 per cent. above target in 2010-11.

PCT	*2009-10 allocation (£000)*	*2010-11 allocation (£000)*	*Two-year cash increase (£000)*	*Two-year cash increase (percentage)*
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	759,311	803,338	83,612	11.6

PCT	*2009-10 allocation (£000)*	*2010-11 allocation (£000)*	*Two-year cash increase (£000)*	*Two-year cash increase (percentage)*
West Hertfordshire PCT	773,604	813,380	78,190	10.6

Respiratory System

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 479W, on respiratory system, to how many patients in each age group the figures on *(a)* hospital and *(b)* admission episodes related in each case. [289570]

Phil Hope: The following table shows hospital episodes and admission episodes for diseases of the respiratory system by age group. Data have been provided for the hospitals referred to in the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 479W.

Number of finished consultant episodes and finished admission episodes for diseases of the respiratory system¹, by provider, 2003-04 to 2007-08, activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		Finished consultant episode					*Finished admission episode*				
Provider	*Provider code age on admission*	*2007-2008*	*2006-2007*	*2005-2006*	*2004-2005*	*2003-2004*	*2007-2008*	*2006-2007*	*2005-2006*	*2004-2005*	*2003-2004*
England	0-4	166,834	158,667	160,414	145,440	151,275	159,767	152,998	155,488	140,894	146,920
	5-14	88,970	353,433	91,257	85,227	82,492	86,104	303,515	88,909	83,223	80,651
	15-44	371,268	407,415	331,310	294,025	266,354	319,752	311,264	285,875	255,202	233,088
	45-64	437,064	88,955	368,283	329,234	297,838	335,215	86,183	283,516	253,918	231,791
	65-74	384,229	364,437	337,372	311,341	288,567	270,674	256,448	238,312	220,632	205,615
	75-84	474,390	452,019	426,243	397,711	364,725	303,678	290,360	275,833	260,636	241,755
	85-120	260,279	242,555	224,093	195,762	179,883	156,279	144,382	135,189	120,915	113,351
	Age not known	2,963	1,699	1,184	1,213	1,479	2,139	1,206	866	930	1,148
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust RTK	0-4	745	639	597	631	585	744	639	596	619	585
	5-14	401	368	385	473	350	401	368	385	473	350
	15-44	1,355	1,154	1,323	1,216	847	1,276	1,119	1,214	1,111	762
	45-64	1,523	1,224	1,405	1,197	1,017	1,372	1,125	1,205	973	811
	65-74	1,394	1,119	1,459	1,386	1,237	1,211	994	1,225	1,088	930
	75-84	2,174	1,853	2,085	2,078	1,746	1,737	1,571	1,663	1,557	1,258
	85-120	1,594	1,473	1,502	1,290	1,088	1,202	1,227	1,180	958	947
	Age not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust RC3	0-4	524	536	564	570	5,17	524	531	564	569	514
	5-14	348	276	352	407	2,55	346	275	352	407	255
	15-44	1,859	1,646	1,459	1,446	1,261	1,635	1,456	1,337	1,347	1,169
	45-64	1,603	1,384	1,179	1,018	976	1,288	1,088	1,028	881	871
	65-74	1,454	1,198	929	962	809	1,017	860	768	800	697
	75-84	1,650	1,444	1,147	1,040	984	1,088	928	887	881	621
	85-120	910	722	654	579	494	521	417	519	478	422
	Age not known	3	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	1
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust RAS	0-4	344	277	295	275	246	344	276	294	275	244
	5-14	174	161	160	104	87	173	158	153	104	87
	15-44	1,407	1,005	934	674	599	1,386	905	868	565	553

Number of finished consultant episodes and finished admission episodes for diseases of the respiratory system[1], by provider, 2003-04 to 2007-08, activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		Finished consultant episode					*Finished admission episode*				
Provider	*Provider code age on admission*	*2007-2008*	*2006-2007*	*2005-2006*	*2004-2005*	*2003-2004*	*2007-2008*	*2006-2007*	*2005-2006*	*2004-2005*	*2003-2004*
	45-64	1,440	1,308	1,096	849	656	1,298	1,140	945	606	563
	65-74	1,234	1,129	1,002	848	673	1,038	904	849	639	572
	75-84	1,563	1,457	1,411	1,314	883	1,233	1,154	1,097	935	746
	85-120	1,055	882	973	803	568	777	613	709	531	470
	Age not known	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT 5M6	0-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	15-44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	45-64	0	0	*	*	0	0	0	*	*	0
	65-74	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
	75-84	0	*	34	25	*	*	*	24	25	*
	85-120	0	10	46	28	31	10	10	46	28	31
	Age not known	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust RFW	0-4	582	386	568	566	481	581	386	568	565	481
	5-14	346	185	343	312	315	344	184	341	311	315
	15-44	1,763	720	1,446	903	705	1,382	539	1,103	732	684
	45-64	1,612	666	1,447	873	623	954	384	906	612	547
	65-74	1,459	700	1,321	902	568	704	373	685	567	467
	75-84	1,888	831	1,833	1,174	705	850	411	890	674	572
	85-120	1,412	603	1,112	760	506	593	265	506	408	386
	Age not known	40	29	25	12	0	28	16	11	4	0

Notes:

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis

These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

[1] The following ICD-10 codes have been used:

J00-J99—'Diseases of the respiratory disease'. Please see the following table for J00-J99 sheet for ICD-code descriptions.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 National Health Service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Small numbers

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Diseases of the respiratory system

Diagnosis code	*Primary description*
J00	Acute nasopharyngitis (common cold)
J01	Acute sinusitis
J02	Acute pharyngitis
J03	Acute tonsillitis
J04	Acute laryngitis and tracheitis
J05	Acute obstructive laryngitis (croup) and epiglottitis
J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites
J10	Influenza due to identified influenza virus
J11	Influenzavirus not identified
J12	Viral pneumonia, not elsewhere classified
J13	Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae
J14	Pneumonia due to Haemophilus influenzae
J15	Bacterial pneumonianot elsewhere classified
J16	Pneumonia due to other infectious organisms NEC
J17	Pneumonia in diseases classified elsewhere
J18	Pneumoniaorganism unspecified
J20	Acute bronchitis
J21	Acute bronchiolitis
J22	Unspecified acute lower respiratory infection
J30	Vasomotor and allergic rhinitis
J31	Chronic rhinitisnasopharyngitis and pharyngitis
J32	Chronic sinusitis
J33	Nasal polyp
J34	Other disorders of nose and nasal sinuses
J35	Chronic diseases of tonsils and adenoids
J36	Peritonsillar abscess
J37	Chronic laryngitis and laryngotracheitis
J38	Diseases of vocal cords and larynx not elsewhere class
J39	Other diseases of upper respiratory tract
J40	Bronchitis not specified as acute or chronic
J41	Simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
J42	Unspecified chronic bronchitis
J43	Emphysema
J44	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
J45	Asthma
J46	Status asthmaticus
J47	Bronchiectasis
J60	Coalworker's pneumoconiosis
J61	Pneumoconiosis due to asbestos and other mineral fibres
J62	Pneumoconiosis due to dust containing silica
J63	Pneumoconiosis due to other inorganic dusts
J64	Unspecified pneumoconiosis
J65	Pneumoconiosis associated with tuberculosis
J66	Airway disease due to specific organic dust
J67	Hypersensitivity pneumonitis due to organic dust
J68	Respiratory conditions due to inhalation of chemicals, gases, fumes and vapours
J69	Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids
J70	Respiratory conditions due to other external agents
J80	Adult respiratory distress syndrome
J81	Pulmonary oedema
J82	Pulmonary eosinophilia, not elsewhere classified
J84	Other interstitial pulmonary diseases
J85	Abscess of lung and mediastinum
J86	Pyothorax
J90	Pleural effusionnot elsewhere classified
J91	Pleural effusion in conditions classified elsewhere
J92	Pleural plaque
J93	Pneumothorax
J94	Other pleural conditions
J95	Postprocedural respiratory disorders NEC
J96	Respiratory failure not elsewhere classified
J98	Other respiratory disorders
J99	Respiratory disorders in diseases classified elsewhere

Rheumatology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* inpatient and *(b)* outpatient attendances in the rheumatology speciality in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what average cost. [289457]

Phil Hope: We have made no estimate of the number, or cost, of in-patient and out-patient attendances for rheumatology.

However, the total number of ordinary, and day case admissions, to hospital where the main consultant specialty is recorded as rheumatology is given in the following table.

	Day case	*Ordinary*
2006-07	62,707	31,577
2005-06	56,938	32,277
2004-05	53,183	31,530
2003-04	49,003	31,440
2002-03	41,003	32,279
2001-02	33,041	34,056
2000-01	30,331	35,524
1999-2000	27,275	37,033
1998-99	24,045	36,968
1997-98	20,496	38,976
1996-97	17,538	40,053

Note:

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Schizophrenia

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of mental health NHS provider organisations are implementing the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline update for schizophrenia; [290314]

(2) what steps he is taking to *(a)* publicise and *(b)* implement the recommendations of the updated National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline update for schizophrenia; [290315]

(3) what *(a)* support and *(b)* guidance has been made available to healthcare professionals to facilitate adherence to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline update on schizophrenia; and whether he has put in place ongoing monitoring to assess the implementation of the guidance by healthcare professionals. [290316]

Phil Hope: We welcome the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE's) updated guidance on schizophrenia and expect it to help further improve the quality of treatment and care for people with schizophrenia.

It is for NICE to publicise the release of its guidance to the national health service and it is for the NHS to implement it. NICE publishes implementation tools to help the NHS implement its guidance locally.

Clinicians are responsible for deciding on the most appropriate form of treatment for their patients, and in doing so they are expected to take NICE guidance fully into account. The Department does not become involved in clinical decisions, nor does it collect data on implementation levels of this NICE guidance among NHS organisations.

NICE issues both technology appraisals (TAs) and clinical guidelines (CGs) and the schizophrenia guidance issued this March is a CG. Clinicians are expected to consider treatments outlined in CGs when considering prescribing options, but are not obliged to prescribe these. As CGs are very broad in approach and can contain 100 or more recommendations, health bodies should implement the guidance as and when resources permit.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the Care Quality Commission is monitoring adherence to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline update on schizophrenia; and what steps it will take in respect of NHS organisations found to be non-compliant. [290317]

Phil Hope: There are no plans for the Care Quality Commission to monitor adherence with the clinical guideline on schizophrenia published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

NICE clinical guidelines support national health service commissioning and best practice in service provision, but compliance with these are not direct indicators of levels of safety and quality. The Department expects NHS organisations to work towards full implementation of NICE clinical guidelines over a reasonable period of time using available resources.

Schools: Nurses

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of secondary schools which employ a school nurse; and what estimate he has made of the number of school nurse posts to be established in secondary schools in the next 12 months. [292116]

Phil Hope: There are about 3,000 secondary schools. The 2008 NHS Workforce Census shows there were 3,643 qualified nurses in school nursing areas (2,634 full time equivalent), an increase of 63 per cent. since 2004. Of these, there were 1,447 (headcount) school nurses with a post registration school nurse qualification (1,062 full time equivalent), an increase of 69 per cent. since 2004.

It is for individual primary care trusts to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations over the next 12 months.

The overall number of professionals within community services for children and families has increased. School nurses are able to access more resources than was traditionally the case.

Smoking: Greater Manchester

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester have received assistance from the NHS to stop smoking in each of the last five years. [291645]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of people setting a quit date and the number of those who successfully quit smoking through national health service stop smoking services in the Bolton primary care trust (PCT) and Greater Manchester, 2004-05 to 2008-09.

	Bolton PCT[1]	*Greater Manchester strategic health authority (SHA)*[2,3]
2004-05		
Number setting a quit date[4]	2,336	39,131
Number of successful quitters[4]	1,349	18,973
2005-06		
Number setting a quit date[4]	3,666	45,282
Number of successful quitters[4]	2,170	21,383
2006-07		
Number setting a quit date[4]	4,762	44,177
Number of successful quitters[4]	2,206	21,174
2007-08		
Number setting a quit date[4]	5,736	52,405
Number of successful quitters[4]	2,320	22,838
2008-09		
Number setting a quit date[4]	3,936	49,100

	Bolton PCT[1]	*Greater Manchester strategic health authority (SHA)*[2,3]
Number of successful quitters[4]	1,718	20,153

[1] Bolton PCT was unaffected by the PCT restructuring which took place in October 2006.
[2] Figures for Greater Manchester SHA were calculated using the constituent PCTs for 2004-05 to 2006-07. Although this SHA did not exist in subsequent years as a result of restructuring, the new PCTs which the constituent old PCTs mapped to have been identified in order to produce figures on the same basis for comparability in 2007-08.
[3] These data are based on figures collected through the quarterly stop smoking services data collection return. If a person sets more than one quit date in the quarter, the details of each attempt should be recorded on the form.
[4] A client is counted as having successfully quit smoking at the four week follow-up if he/she has not smoked at all since two weeks after the quit date.

Notes:

1. The figures provided for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been extracted from the corresponding annual Statistics on NHS stop smoking services in England report for each of these years. These publications have already been placed in the Library.
2. Bolton PCT figures provided for 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been extracted from the corresponding annual Statistics on NHS stop smoking services in England report for each of these years. Greater Manchester SHA figures were not published in these later reports[2]. These publications have already been placed in the Library.
3. On the basis that the clinical viewpoint tends to be that a client should not be counted as a 'failure' if he/she has smoked in the difficult first days after the quit date, a client is counted as having successfully quit smoking if he/she has not smoked at all since two weeks after the quit date. The four week follow-up (and Carbon Monoxide (CO) validation, if appropriate) must be completed within six weeks of the quit date. Persons not contacted within this time are treated as lost to follow-up for evaluation purposes.
4. Only people who set a quit date through the NHS stop smoking services are included in the quarterly monitoring returns, those who attend the service but do not set a quit date are not included.
5. NHS stop smoking services data are based on the PCTs which provide the service. People using their services are not necessarily resident in that PCT.
6. The information centre for health and social care collects data from the NHS stop smoking services as part of the NHS stop smoking services quarterly monitoring returns forms, undertaken since 2005 on behalf of the Department.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care

Social Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase provision of social care support in *(a)* England and *(b)* Coventry. [289302]

Phil Hope: The direction of travel for adult social care is set out in "Putting People First", the shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care, published in December 2007. It is confirmed in the Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", which was published in July this year.

"Putting People First" commits to significant change by April 2011. It confirms that reform of social care can only be delivered through partnership across central and local government. It is holistic in its approach to delivering social care services for all individuals in the community, not just those eligible for statutory support.

"Putting People First" clearly sets out a vision of a universal offer to the entire community, including social care service users. Not only will this increase the provision of social care support, but the strategic shift towards prevention and early intervention services is designed to provide more help to people with lower level care needs, to reduce the likelihood that they will need more intensive services in the longer term and to help them retain their independence.

By the end of 2009-10, this Government will have increased local government funding by 45 per cent. in real terms since 1997. These are unprecedented rises in funding to local councils and provide the resources they need to improve the provision of care and support for their populations.

The Department is investing circa £3.5 billion over this comprehensive spending review period to support improvements in the provision of social care. In particular, the social care reform grant will provide over £500 million for the reform and transformation of adult social care. In 2009-10, Coventry will receive approximately £8 million of revenue and capital grants from the Department to help support this agenda.

For the longer term, the Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", together with the public consultation, "The Big Care Debate", which will run until 13 November, is addressing the national and local challenges we face in providing care and support in the future.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to ensure consistent levels of provision of social care support across the country. [289303]

Phil Hope: The fairer access to care services (FACS) guidance has just been revised and is out for consultation until 6 October 2009.

The Commission for Social Care Inspectorate's (CSCI) state of social care report 2006-07 identified a trend for councils to raise their eligibility thresholds and the potential implications for people seeking support. In the light of recommendations made by CSCI in their report "Cutting the Cake Fairly: CSCI review of eligibility criteria for social care" (October 2008), the Government worked with stakeholders to revise the FACS guidance. The revision of the FACS guidance is aimed at bringing about improvements to the system as it currently stands, making implementation fairer and more consistent for people seeking support and reinforcing the current direction of policy established by "Putting People First", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library.

The "Fairer Contribution Guidance" was also published on 14 July 2009 to accompany the existing "Fairer Charging guidance". Copies have been placed in the Library. This provides councils with a model to help them decide how much (if anything) a person should contribute to their personal budget. Councils will be expected to implement the "Fairer Contributions Guidance" by March 2010.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on application of criteria of *(a)* substantial and *(b)* critical needs in decisions on eligibility for adult social care services; what powers local authorities have to limit provision of such services to people with those categories of need; and if he will make a statement. [289304]

Phil Hope: The Fairer Access to Care Services (FACS) guidance (June 2003), a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, sets a framework to help local authorities identify those people who are eligible for social care services. The FACS guidance sets out four eligibility bands of criteria (Critical, Substantial, Moderate and Low).

The Commission for Social Care Inspectorate's (CSCI) State of Social Care report 2006-07 identified a trend for councils to raise their eligibility thresholds and the potential implications for people seeking support. In the light of recommendations made by CSCI in their report "Cutting the Cake Fairly: CSCI review of eligibility criteria for social care" (October 2008), the Government have been working with stakeholders to revise the FACS guidance and this is out for consultation until 6 October 2009.

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Local authorities must ensure that everyone who is eligible for social care has their needs met.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many packages of care were provided by local authorities to clients with *(a)* physical disability and *(b)* rheumatoid arthritis in the latest year for which figures are available; and at what (i) gross and (ii) net cost. [289456]

Phil Hope: Central data collated in 2007-08, show that the number of adults (aged 18 and over) with a physical disability or sensory impairment and receiving care services was 221,000 adults (aged 18-64) and 1.045 million adults (aged 65 and over).

The gross current expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with a physical disability or sensory impairment was £1.48 billion in 2007-08, and the net current expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with a physical disability or sensory impairment was £1.39 billion in 2007-08.

Data are not collected centrally on the gross and net costs of adults aged 65 and over with a physical disability or individually broken down to show packages of care for rheumatoid arthritis and the associated costs.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Care Quality Commission plans to conduct a State of Social Care review for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [290394]

Phil Hope: The Health and Social Care Act 2008 requires the Care Quality Commission to report annually on the provision of national health service care during the year, the provision of adult social care services during the year, and the carrying on of regulated activities during the year. The Care Quality Commission has informed us it is planning an integrated report on the state of health care and adult social care in England. It will lay its first annual report to Parliament to cover the year 2008-09 and its second report will cover the year 2009-10.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when in 2010 he plans to publish a White Paper on social care. [290396]

Phil Hope: The care and support Green Paper, 'Shaping the Future of Care Together', announced that the Government will publish a White Paper in 2010. The consultation on the Green Paper will run until 13 November 2009 and we will make further announcements about the timing of the White Paper in due course.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of making changes to the Disability Living Allowance programme as part of his proposals on social care. [290398]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" set out the reasons for considering the future role of disability benefits in the context of the social care review. It proposed that one option is to bring some disability benefits and the new social care system together into a single system, as a better way of providing support. However, it is important to note that this is a consultation exercise for long-term reform and no final decisions have been made on the specific merits of changing the Disability Living Allowance programme. We are seeking the views of all stakeholders in further developing these proposals.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health during which month in 2010 he expects his Department's White Paper on care and support to be published. [291863]

Phil Hope: The care and support Green Paper, 'Shaping the Future of Care Together', announced that the Government will publish a White Paper in 2010. The consultation on the Green Paper will run until 13 November 2009 and we will make further announcements about the timing of the White Paper in due course.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 106 of his Department's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", on what evidence the estimate that a quarter or a third of basic care and support costs could be paid for by the state was based; and what estimate he made of the cost of *(a)* a quarter and *(b)* a third of all annual care and support. [291865]

Phil Hope: The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the University of Kent and the London School of Economics have carried out analysis to model the cost of the Green Paper funding options. The statement that under partnership a third to a quarter of basic care and support costs could be paid for by the state is based on that analysis.

We expect to publish shortly a report by PSSRU outlining the modelling and costs of the Green Paper funding options. A copy will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has produced an impact assessment for the proposal in the Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", to use attendance allowance to help to fund social care; what estimate he has made of the number of people who will receive social care under such arrangements in the next 12 months; and which categories of people will be prioritised under these arrangements. [292100]

Phil Hope: The Department published a regulatory impact assessment alongside the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" which sets out the estimated costs and implications of the funding models discussed. The impact assessment is available online at:

http://careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/greenpaper/the-green-paper-and-supporting-documents/

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Due to the wide range of reforms proposed within the Green Paper, full introduction of a new care and support system will be around 2014 at the earliest.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland on the implementation of proposals contained in the Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together". [292103]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to Ministers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to provide them with the full text of the Green Paper prior to publication. Departmental officials have been in regular contact with their counterparts in the devolved Administrations and a further series of meetings are planned.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role he plans for GPs in the proposed National Care Service as set out in the Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together"; and what arrangements he plans to put in place for the provision of the National Care Service to patients resident in England and registered with GP practices in Wales. [292104]

Phil Hope: Care and support covers a range of reserved and devolved issues. Where matters are devolved, there will inevitably be consequences for people who live near the geographical boundaries between two areas with different policies. This is the case with the current system. We will continue to work with the devolved Administrations to ensure the implications of the Green Paper for people living near the borders are fully understood.

We do not envisage the new national care service altering any existing cross-border provision of health services. For example, the new national care service will not mean that patients in England who are registered with general practitioners in Wales cannot continue this arrangement.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish *(a)* the responses to and *(b)* the conclusions of his Department's consultation on its social care Green Paper. [292536]

Phil Hope: The Big Care Debate closes on 13 November 2009. The Government's response to the consultation will be published after this date.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects his proposals for the creation of a National Care Service to cost; which organisations he expects to comprise the service; what assessment he has made of the likely effects of his proposals on *(a)* existing (i) NHS and (ii) social care budgets and *(b)* existing local authority provision of social care. [292537]

Phil Hope: We believe that reform of the care and support system is necessary in order to make the long term care costs sustainable for the State and the individual. The Impact Assessment for the Green Paper 'Shaping the Future of Care Together' suggested that a National Care Service could cost the State between £18.2 billion and £20.7 billion in 2014, depending on the funding model chosen. These are illustrative comparative costs suggesting the possible cost to the state of the different models. These are indicative only and could be subject to change. Costs would be met from within the public spending envelope set for future spending reviews, which will be in line with the plans for fiscal consolidation set out at Budget 2009.

Local authorities are key to the delivery of our vision for the future. This Green Paper underlines the important, continued and strengthened role they will play under reform, in any future funding system. But we also know that one of the most common problems with care and support is an apparent lack of connection between different services, particularly health, social care, housing and benefits. So a central plank of a National Care Service will be a coherent strategy centred on patients, care-users and their carers, to support local leaders to make sure that joined-up services are delivered.

Streptococcus: Pregnancy

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department provides to health professionals on implementation in maternity units of the guidelines issued by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for preventing Group B streptococcus infection in newborn babies; [292168]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that pregnant women are informed about Group B streptococcus as part of their antenatal care. [292169]

Ann Keen: Current guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists is provided by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) which published its green-top guideline No. 36 on the prevention of early-onset neonatal group B streptococcus disease in November 2003. In 2005, the RCOG, in collaboration with the National Screening Committee, established a national audit to evaluate practice in United Kingdom obstetric units against the recommendations of the guideline. The audit published in January 2007, reported that current practice followed the established patterns of care described in the RCOG guideline.

The Department supports the Maternity Standards published by the RCOG in 2008, which state that maternity services should comply with evidence-based guidelines for the provision of high-quality clinical care.

Information for women on group B streptococcus is contained in "The Pregnancy Book" a guide to health pregnancy, labour and giving birth, life with your new baby, which is given to all pregnant women during their antenatal care. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Information is also available on NHS Direct and NHS Choices website. Women who are concerned are advised to talk to their doctor or midwife.

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the implications for his policy of the most recent evidence on testing pregnant women for Group B streptococcus. [292170]

Ann Keen: The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) reviewed the policy for screening for Group B Streptococcus in pregnancy in March 2009 and concluded that the evidence did not support its introduction. The UK NSC will review its position on screening in three year's time unless any significant evidence emerges which suggests this should be undertaken earlier.

Strokes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether patients who have had strokes qualify for continuing healthcare assessment; [292359]

(2) what criteria govern the award of continuing healthcare assessment to patients who have had strokes. [292371]

Phil Hope: A revised national framework for continuing care was published in August 2009. This framework covers those patients who have had strokes as the eligibility criteria for continuing care are not disease specific. A copy of the framework has been placed in the Library.

Swine Flu

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospitals on their preparations for a swine influenza outbreak. [289493]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State for Health meets regularly with the NHS chief executive and the NHS flu resilience director, who are responsible for ensuring the national health service is prepared for a swine flu outbreak.

On 2 July, the national director for NHS flu resilience, Ian Dalton, wrote to all NHS chief executives to make clear the expectation that preparedness plans need to be reviewed and subjected to further testing.

To further support local planning, on 10 September, a strategy for critical care services was published that sets out how ventilated critical care capacity can be increased in the NHS during the peak weeks of a potential second wave of swine flu. The published full critical care strategy sets out how the NHS will collectively achieve this increase. A copy has been placed in the Library.

On 10 September, the national director for pandemic influenza preparedness, Lindsey Davies, also hosted a pandemic flu conference on the theme of "Looking back, moving forward". The conference, attended by 375 delegates, was open to strategic health authorities, primary care trusts and local authority representatives with health and social care responsibilities. The focus of the day was on the swine flu response to date, delivering the swine flu vaccination programme, the challenges that lie ahead and sharing best practice.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on informing the British tourism industry on the effect of the swine influenza pandemic in the UK. [289657]

Gillian Merron: The Civil Contingencies Committee has been meeting regularly since the swine flu outbreak, and is chaired by the Secretary of State for Health. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport attends these meetings at which all elements of the Government's response to the swine influenza pandemic are discussed.

Throughout the outbreak, the Government have provided a wide range of advice to businesses generally about the impacts swine flu could have on them, through mechanisms such as the Business Advisory Network on Flu and the BusinessLink website. Planning assumptions have been issued which are of use to all sectors.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria his Department uses to identify epidemic levels of swine influenza in an area; and in which areas such levels have been identified to date. [290152]

Gillian Merron: We are now relying on clinical diagnosis instead of laboratory confirmation to identify cases of swine flu.

The rates of general practitioner (GP) consultations for influenza—like illness from a sample of participating GP practices is used to identify epidemic levels of swine flu activity in an area.

The current criteria used to define the level of flu activity are:

Baseline (outside of a normal flu season) activity (<30 GP consultations per 100,000) during a week;

Normal seasonal activity (30-200 GP consultations per 100,000) during a week; and

Epidemic activity (>200 GP consultations per 100,000 people) during a week.

Strategic health authorities that experienced levels of above 200 GP consultations per 100,000 population over the summer of 2009 are:

London;
North East;
East Midlands;
North West;
West Midlands;
South West; and
South East Coast.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls the swine flu information line had received on the latest date for which figures are available; and how much his Department has spent on that service. [291783]

Gillian Merron: As of 5 pm 25 September 2009, around 1.3 million calls to the information line were received.

Up to 30 September, the Department has spent around £230,000 on the provision of the service.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Statement of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 583-5, on swine flu, which groups will be regarded as higher risk for the purposes of vaccine prioritisation. [291856]

Gillian Merron: Based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, the following groups will be the first to be vaccinated with H1N1 swine flu vaccine, in the following order:

individuals aged between six months and up to 65 years in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups;

all pregnant women, subject to licensing conditions on trimesters;

household contacts of immuno-compromised individuals; and

people aged 65 years and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups.

In addition to this, front line health and social care workers will be offered the vaccine at the same time as the first clinical at risk groups as they are at increased risk of infection and of transmitting that infection to susceptible patients.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Statement of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 583-5, on swine flu, if he will place in the Library a copy of the analysis he received which showed that the initial containment policy for swine flu worked well. [291857]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency has worked with independent academic experts to analyse the impact of the containment policy on the spread of the virus in the United Kingdom. This work has been submitted for publication and a copy of the publication will be placed in the Library when it is available.

The Health Protection Agency is also conducting a full review of the containment phase that is expected to be completed in early 2010.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the Statement of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 583-5, on swine flu, how many people will be employed to staff the interim flu line service; and how many calls per day the interim service will be capable of handling; [291858]

(2) how many courses of antivirals have been dispensed for the treatment of patients with swine flu in each *(a)* age group and *(b)* primary care trust since 2 July 2009; [291861]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 671W, on swine flu, what the additional antiviral collection point functionality added to the flu line service is; [291866]

(4) what the differences are between the full National Pandemic Flu Line Service and the interim solution. [291867]

Gillian Merron: The interim National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS) launched with 1,500 concurrent seats from seven call centre operators, operating from 19 sites across the United Kingdom. Over 3,500 agents were initially trained to provide the service. The agents are employed by a range of private and public sector call centre operators to ensure that the service can flexibly operate seat and agent supply to meet public demand.

The service is capable of operating 7,500 concurrent call centre seats. This level of operation, if required, would enable around 1 million calls in a 24 hour period to be handled by call centre operators in addition to those using the web service.

From the launch of the interim NPFS on 23 July 2009 to 29 September 2009, around 590,000 antivirals were dispensed for treatment of patients. The breakdown by age group and primary care trust has been placed in the Library.

These figures relate solely to antivirals collected through the NPFS, as antivirals distributed between 2-22 July 2009 were distributed through normal primary care routes and by the Health Protection Agency; those data are still being collated.

The antiviral collection point system that has been developed enables members of staff in collection points to:

check the validity of an authorisation number generated by the NPFS;

check and confirm the name of the patient and the antiviral and dose authorised;

check that the authorisation number has not been used previously to collect an antiviral;

record the checking of identification (ID), and types of ID provided by the flu friend for themselves and the patient;

record the details of the flu friend who has collected the antiviral;

record the collection of the antiviral to prevent the authorisation number being used more than once; and

provide regular information on the number of antivirals issued using an authorisation number.

The autumn solution (i.e. full NPFS) does have increased functionality and offers a more flexible information technology platform.

Individuals who use the service will follow a very similar process to the current service. The main change from an individual's perspective is the additional ID functionality. An overview of additional functionality is as follows:

a dynamic algorithm will provide greater flexibility if the algorithm needs to be changed and enables changes to be processed more quickly;

an enhanced ID process: identification can be verified during the assessment as well as at the collection point;

the functionality to re-issue an authorisation number through NPFS will be available to enable patients who forget their authorisation number to re-contact the service quickly and efficiently to access a new number that can be used in an antiviral collection point; and

the autumn service is planned to offer additional languages on the web.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Statement of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 583-5, on swine flu, which 110 primary care trusts had reported exceptional levels of flu like illness. [291859]

Gillian Merron: The primary care trusts (PCTs) that reported exceptional levels of flu like illness are:

Tower Hamlets PCT
Greenwich Teaching PCT
Islington PCT
Lewisham PCT
Leicester City PCT
Barking and Dagenham PCT
Harrow PCT
Bedfordshire PCT
Coventry Teaching PCT
Middlesbrough PCT
South Tyneside PCT
City and Hackney Teaching PCT
Telford and Wrekin PCT
Redbridge PCT
South Birmingham PCT
Hillingdon PCT
Sutton and Merton PCT
Lambeth PCT
Camden PCT
Warrington PCT
Buckinghamshire PCT
Enfield PCT
Brent Teaching PCT
Blackburn with Darwen PCT
County Durham PCT
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT
Manchester PCT
Newham PCT
Gateshead PCT
Northumberland Care Trust
South Staffordshire PCT
Sunderland Teaching PCT
West Kent PCT
Peterborough PCT
Southwark PCT
Ealing PCT
Havering PCT
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT
Somerset PCT
Blackpool PCT
North Tyneside PCT
Redcar and Cleveland PCT
Halton and St. Helens PCT
Nottinghamshire County PCT
Luton PCT
Warwickshire PCT
Nottingham City PCT
Oxfordshire PCT
Swindon PCT
Gloucestershire PCT
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT
Brighton and Hove City PCT
Medway PCT
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT
Kingston PCT
Unclassified
Central Lancashire PCT
Wandsworth PCT
Solihull Care Trust
West Hertfordshire PCT
Herefordshire PCT
Stockport PCT
Shropshire County PCT
Bromley PCT
Northamptonshire PCT
Cambridgeshire PCT
North Lancashire PCT
Bristol PCT
Derby City PCT
Westminster PCT
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT
Wakefield District PCT
Southampton City PCT
Western Cheshire PCT
Suffolk PCT
Barnet PCT
South Gloucestershire PCT
Derbyshire County PCT
Waltham Forest PCT
Berkshire West PCT
Hampshire PCT
Newcastle PCT
Worcestershire PCT
Doncaster PCT
Hounslow PCT
East Lancashire PCT
Wirral PCT
Bolton PCT
North Yorkshire and York PCT
Liverpool PCT
Plymouth Teaching PCT
North Somerset PCT
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT
East and North Hertfordshire PCT
Croydon PCT
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT
Lincolnshire PCT
Wolverhampton City PCT
West Sussex PCT
Stoke on Trent PCT
Surrey PCT
West Essex PCT
Knowsley PCT
Leeds PCT
Devon PCT
Norfolk PCT
Sefton PCT
Tameside and Glossop PCT
Milton Keynes PCT

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on the provision of information on swine flu; and how much further expenditure on such provision he has planned. [291862]

Gillian Merron: Communicating accurate and timely information to the general public and health care professionals during the current swine flu pandemic has been recognised as a priority by the Department and by the World Health Organisation.

We have communicated regularly via a range of channels including advertising, online information, technical and professional guidance and media briefing, including by Ministers, senior officials and clinicians.

Because of this, it is not possible to quantify accurately the cost of all this activity in producing information on swine flu, however we are able to give a figure for public advertising activity.

The cost of advertising and publicity activity in England on swine influenza, including the Swine Flu Information Phone Line, is approximately £8.2 million to date.

This may increase over the course of the pandemic. Various scenarios are being considered to allow a flexible response if swine flu escalates to ensure that the public have timely and accurate information about the disease, how to protect against it, and how to access treatment if they catch it.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to provide vaccinations against swine influenza to homebound patients. [292317]

Ann Keen: The Department has asked primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to work with local national health service stakeholders to develop local plans to ensure that all of those identified in the Chief Medical Officer's list of high priority groups receive their swine flu vaccinations. These plans should include provision for housebound patients.

The Department will be supporting this work by providing core materials about swine flu vaccination for staff training and communications with the public and NHS staff.

Swine Flu: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of swine flu have been reported among residents of Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency to date. [291587]

Gillian Merron: Data on the precise number of swine flu cases in a particular area are not available.

However, the Department does have data on the number of antivirals dispensed through the National Pandemic Flu Service (NPFS). We do not have figures specifically for the Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency but we do have figures for the two primary care trusts (PCTs) which the constituency crosses. These show that:

> Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT: around 3,500 antivirals were collected between 23 July 2009 and 22 September 2009; and
>
> NHS Birmingham East and North PCT (including part of the Small Heath area): around 3,800 antivirals were collected between 23 July 2009 and 22 September 2009.

These figures relate solely to antivirals collected through the NPFS since its launch on 23 July. Antivirals distributed prior to this time were distributed through normal primary care routes and by the Health Protection Agency; those data are still being collated.

Syringes: Injuries

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of NHS staff who have contracted *(a)* HIV/AIDS and *(b)* hepatitis C through a needlestick injury in each of the last five years; [291584]

(2) how many needlestick injuries have been recorded in each hospital trust in each of the last five years. [291585]

Gillian Merron: Information on the number of needlestick injuries to national health service staff in each hospital trust is not collected centrally.

However, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) collects information on significant occupational exposures to blood-borne viruses in health care workers in the United Kingdom. The HPA's latest report "Eye of the Needle, United Kingdom Surveillance of Significant Occupational Exposures to Blood Borne Viruses in Healthcare Workers, November 2008" has been placed in the Library and is available on the HPA's website at:

> www.camr.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb-C/1205394781623

This report, which provides data up to the end of 2007, includes information on the number of documented cases of health care workers who have contracted HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C through a needlestick injury in 2004-07, which are summarised in the following table.

Number of documented cases of health care workers who have contracted HIV and hepatitis C through a needlestick injury in the UK, 2004-07

Infection	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
HIV	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C	1	2	2	2

Tamiflu

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average shelf-life is of the Tamiflu the Government have in stock; [289237]

(2) what procedures the NHS has in place to ensure the use of the oldest stock of Tamiflu first. [289238]

Gillian Merron: The existing pandemic stockpile of Tamiflu was purchased in instalments between the autumn of 2006 and 2007 (totalling some 15 million treatment courses) and in spring 2009 (eight million treatment courses). This makes determining the average life of the stockpile difficult. All of this stock has a shelf life of five years so is currently well within its expiry date. However, following a decision of the European medicines regulator (the European Medicines Agency, stock produced after June 2009 will have a shelf life of seven years. We are currently discussing with Roche and with the medicines regulator both the implications of this decision and the possible extension of the shelf life of stock we hold.

A small amount of Tamiflu that we are making use of but that was not procured for pandemic flu planning will expire later in 2009. We expect that most of this stock will now have been used.

Stock currently held by the national health service for treatment of swine flu at antiviral collection points (ACPs) is used in accordance with guidance provided on stock rotation.

All ACPs have pharmaceutical oversight provided by senior primary care trust pharmacists, who ensure there are safe systems and processes in place for the safe management and supply of antiviral medicines.

Stock held in stockpile warehouses is managed by professional inventory and stock managers, and in accordance with standard inventory management practice on a "first in, first out" basis.

Telemedicine

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 550W, on telemedicine, in which *(a)* local authority and *(b)* primary care trust areas business has been procured through the Purchasing and Supply Agency Telecare National Framework Agreement. [289637]

Phil Hope: This information is commercially confidential, as releasing it could give a commercial advantage to other organisations outside the framework agreement. The following table gives a high level breakdown of the number of organisations procuring through the framework.

Organisation type	*Number of organisations*
County Council	308
Acute	211
PCT	106
Borough Council	301
Northern Ireland Board	157
City Council	154
Ambulance	55
MHT	3
Housing Association	56
County Borough Council	16
Welsh Local Health Board	6
District Council	78
Housing Consortium	2
Local Council	8
Miscellaneous	4
City and Borough Council	3

Note:
The table shows the number of purchasing points it was set up around a trust having one purchasing point put in practice some may have more than one.

Thrombosis

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to consult on the inclusion of venous thromboembolism risk assessment and prevention in the 2010-11 NHS Operating Framework. [291660]

Phil Hope: We expect the NHS Operating Framework for 2010-11 to be published later this year and we can confirm that it will include venous thromboembolism risk assessment and prevention.

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects his Department's venous thrombroembolism risk assessment model to be made available to all health professionals in the NHS through the National Programme for IT; and if he will make a statement. [291661]

Phil Hope: We are currently looking to pilot the tool within a clinical setting and, if approved, the intention is that the tool together with the technology could be evaluated at a number of sites. Subject to this work going ahead, the tool would then be available to download to national health service trusts at the same time as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence publish their venous thrombroembolism clinical guidelines for all hospitalised patients.

Thrombosis: Hospitals

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 356W, what progress has been made in his Department's work with the Office for National Statistics to provide the requested information; and if he will make a statement. [291573]

Phil Hope: The Office for National Statistics are still working on the data which are by nature quite complex, spanning many different areas. We have received some preliminary data and are continuing to work with them to produce meaningful information on episodes of venous thromboembolism.

Treatment Centres

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will conduct an audit of the cost of residual value payments which may be made to providers of independent sector treatment centres (ISTC) projects contracted under the *(a)* first and *(b)* second wave of the ISTC programme. [290308]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No. There is a duty to make a residual value payment at contract expiry where the requirement exists under the terms of an independent sector treatment centres contract.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to primary care trusts on the commissioning of services from independent sector treatment centres. [290309]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not issued primary care trusts (PCTs) with guidance on the commissioning of services from independent sector treatment centres. It is for PCTs to determine their commissioning requirements.

The Department has requested that PCTs review their capacity requirements and has provided guidance to support the competitive procurement of treatment centre services. PCTs will review contracts on a case-by-case basis and commission new services where capacity is required.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS tariff is for procedures undertaken in independent sector treatment centres. [290310]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The national health service tariff does not apply to procedures undertaken in Wave One and Phase Two Independent Sector Treatment Centres. Providers are paid for services according to the terms and conditions of their contracts. Future contracts to provide services from treatment centres will be paid at the NHS tariff.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the management of the expiry of the contracts of phase one independent sector treatment centres. [290348]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Contracts for the centrally procured wave one independent sector treatment centres are scheduled to end from 2010. Each contract will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and new services will be commissioned where local commissioners determine that capacity is required.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the costs likely to be incurred by his Department in relation to its contractual obligations under phase one of the independent sector treatment centre programme after the expiry of phase one contracts. [290516]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The total potential expiry cost (including residual value) for wave one independent sector treatment centres is approximately £200 million.

Vioxx

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of prescribing the drug Vioxx has been in each of the last two years. [292312]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The net ingredient cost (NIC) of prescription items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England for 2007 and 2008, cannot be reported as the NIC was reimbursed for less than 50 prescription items. Reporting this figure could potentially identify individual patients.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to answer question *(a)* 279209, on the composition of his Department's Applications Committee, tabled on 11 June 2009 and *(b)* 283263, on the NHS IT Programme, tabled on 26 June 2009. [289567]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1594W and 1609W.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 October 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have successfully applied for anti-social behaviour orders against their tenants in the last three years. [292383]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not collect this information.

Information collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued from April 1999 to December 2007 is available at:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/asbos/asbos02-090713.xls

Council Housing: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to move debt from highly indebted local authorities to those with no debt as part of his plans for a redistribution of housing debt. [289546]

Mr. Ian Austin: On 21 July my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing published a consultation paper setting out proposals to replace the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system with a devolved system of responsibility and funding for council housing. This would end the need to redistribute income between council landlords each year, in exchange for a one-off adjustment of housing debt. Under the proposals, some authorities would be provided with funds to pay off debt and others would take on more housing debt, putting all councils in a position to sustain their stock in future from their own income. The consultation paper, 'Reform of council housing finance', is published on my Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk

Empty Shops Funding Grant

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been *(a)* distributed to each local authority through the Empty Shops Funding Grant and *(b)* subsequently spent by each authority; how many empty premises have been utilised as part of the scheme in each year since its inception; and how many he estimates will be used in the next two years. [292080]

Mr. Ian Austin: On 13 August, CLG announced £3 million funding to help areas hit hardest by the recession find ways to boost town centres, and in particular mitigate the negative impact of empty shops on the high street. The 57 local authorities, shown in the following list, have each received £52,631.58. This is new funding for 2009-10 only, which forms part of the package of support that CLG is providing to boost town centres and high streets, as set out in "Looking after our town centres", which we published in April.

In accordance with the Government's policy on local authority funding, it is for the local authorities concerned to decide precisely how it should be spent. However, we continue to work with local authorities and other stakeholders to highlight positive approaches for making use of empty shops, and other ideas for promoting town centres.

Local authorities receiving empty shops funding:

Ashfield
Barnsley
Barrow-in-Furness
Birmingham
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Bolton
Boston
Bristol
Burnley
Copeland
Corby
Coventry
Darlington
Derby City
Doncaster
Dudley
Durham
Gateshead
Great Yarmouth
Hackney
Halton
Harlow
Hartlepool
Hastings
Hyndburn
Ipswich
Kingston Upon Hull
Kirklees
Knowsley
Leeds
Leicester City
Liverpool
Manchester
Mansfield
Middlesbrough
Newcastle upon Tyne
North East Lincolnshire
North Tyneside
Nottingham City
Pendle
Preston
Rochdale
Rossendale
Rotherham

Salford
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
South Tyneside
Stoke-on-Trent
Sunderland
Tameside
Thanet
Walsall
Wigan
Wolverhampton

Local Development Frameworks

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have commenced but not yet completed processes for the approval of a new Local Development Framework; and if he will make a statement. [291952]

Mr. Ian Austin: 'Local Development Framework' is the collective name for the folder of various planning-related documents that local planning authorities have prepared. Some of these documents will have been subject to statutory independent examination in public by the Planning Inspectorate; others will have been approved and adopted by individual authorities where there is no statutory requirement for independent examination. All authorities will have approved documents of one kind or another in place and all are subject to regular monitoring and review, so it is an ongoing process.

Documents that the Planning Inspectorate has considered sound to date are:

50 Core Strategies
37 Area Action Plans
9 Site Allocation Policies
7 Development Control Policies
17 Minerals and Waste Policies
10 other plans dealing with specific themes
385 Statements of Community Involvement.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have approved Local Development Frameworks with provision for new house building at a level lower than that required to meet Government targets; and if he will make a statement. [291953]

Mr. Ian Austin: 'Local Development Framework' is the collective name for the folder of various planning-related documents that local planning authorities have prepared. Some of these documents (development plan documents) will have been subject to statutory independent examination in public by the Planning Inspectorate; others will have been approved and adopted by individual authorities where there is no statutory requirement for independent examination.

In order to be found sound, development plan documents are required to be in general conformity with the regional spatial strategy (or spatial development strategy if the LPA is located in London), including housing allocations, if appropriate.

Local Government: Official Hospitality

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the receipt of gratuities and hospitality by staff. [291730]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has issued no guidance on the receipt of gratuities and hospitality by local authority employees.

Local Government: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 100 elected local authority representatives had the highest total remuneration in the latest year for which information is available. [291990]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the contracts of each member of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit board expire; and what plans he has to renew each such contract. [292350]

Mr. Ian Austin: All board members' contracts expire on 31 October 2009. We will announce our decision on future board appointments after we have completed a review of the unit later this month.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff members the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit employed in each of the last three years. [292352]

Mr. Ian Austin: The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit has employed the following full-time equivalent staff[1] over each of the last three years:

[1] Assumes permanent civil service staff only, excludes two temporary staff for part of period.

	Number
October 2006[1] to March 2007	1.42
April 2007—March 2008	12.25
April 2008—March 2009	12.66
April 2009—current	12.8

[1] NHPAU established and first started incurring staff salary costs in October 2006.

In addition, the unit also currently has six board members who work for the unit for up to a maximum of 30 days per year each.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has reviewed the effectiveness of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit's remit. [292454]

Mr. Ian Austin: A review of the unit began in August and is expected to conclude shortly.

Refuges: Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic violence refuges there are in each local authority area in England and Wales. [292520]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not collect this information.

There is a range of support for victims of domestic violence. Some victims will be accommodated in refuges, but sanctuary schemes and mainstream local authority accommodation may be an option for others, while some victims will pursue independent solutions with help and advice from support schemes as necessary.

The Department has recently commissioned new research that will identify the current housing options available to households at risk of domestic violence, and to assess whether this provision meets current need. It will involve establishing the extent and type of temporary and settled accommodation available for households at risk of domestic violence in England, including the provision of housing related support services delivered to both temporary and settled accommodation, and to households' own homes. This will report early next year. Whether it will show a breakdown in each local authority depends on how many local authorities respond to the research. As the research is still ongoing we are currently unable to determine what the response rate is.

In 2003 the Government announced major investment in refuge provision in England in 2003-06. A total of £34 million capital was allocated and 511 units of accommodation were refurbished or newly built. More recently the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme (2005-07) funded six new and refurbished refuges at a cost of £4 million.

CLG provides essential revenue support for victims of domestic violence through the Supporting People Programme. £64.5 million in 2007-08 up from £61.6 million in 2006-07.

Information for Wales has not been included as provision of refuges is a devolved matter.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic violence refuges have closed in the last five years. [292521]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not collect this information.

Regional Planning and Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received on clarification of aspects of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development Order) (Amendment) (No. 2) (England) Order; and if he will make a statement. [292456]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has received a number of representations from organisations and individuals seeking clarification on issues arising from the Town and Country (General Permitted Development Order) (Amendment) (No. 2) (England) Order 2008. The representations include concerns about the way the order is being interpreted by planning authorities.

I have asked my officials to undertake an assessment of all the matters that have been raised since the introduction of the order. Once that is completed, they will meet with stakeholders to discuss these issues further.

Social Rented Housing: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties are expected to be added to the stock of social rented housing in Cornwall through *(a)* construction and *(b)* purchase in each of the next five years. [291599]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Homes and Communities Agency is delivering a £59 million affordable housing investment programme in Cornwall over the 2008-11 period. In 2008-09, 209 new social homes for rent were completed in Cornwall. 539 new social homes for rent are expected to be completed in 2009-10 and a minimum of 365 new social homes for rent are expected to be completed in 2010-11. Approximately 52 homes were bought from developers on the open market for social rent in 2008-09 and 79 homes are expected to be bought from developers on the open market for social rent in 2009-10. There are no estimates for future years.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any changes are planned to levels of Decent Homes funding to fund the other housing measures announced in the Draft Legislative Programme. [289545]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are no current planned changes to levels of Decent Homes funding to fund other housing measures announced in the Draft Legislative Programme.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when expenditure is planned to start under the Decent Homes programme to improve the standards of rented homes under the management of Round 6 arm's-length management organisations which have gained a two-star rating. [289905]

Mr. Ian Austin: Four Round 6 ALMOs—Haringey, Blackpool, Enfield and Stevenage—have funded Decent Homes investment programmes. On 14 July, as part of the Housing Pledge announcement, the Minister for Housing announced that those remaining Round 6 ALMOs, who had yet to qualify for Decent Homes funding on that date, are more likely to receive their capital allocations in 2011-12, subject to the ALMO achieving the Audit Commission inspection rating required.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much money is planned to be diverted from the arm's length management organisations decent homes programme in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 to contribute to funding the building of new homes. [289919]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are no plans to divert funding from the Decent Homes programme in 2009-10. In 2011-11, £150 million has been reprioritised from the programme to fund the Housing Pledge initiative to contribute to the building of new homes.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of former council properties transferred out of council ownership through local authority stock transfer which meet the Decent Homes standard. [290228]

Mr. Ian Austin: As at 31 March 2009, the proportion of homes owned by registered social landlords that own stock transferred from local authorities, which met the Decent Homes Standard was 88.1 per cent.

Source:
RSR 2009

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of properties owned by arm's-length management organisations which meet the Decent Homes standard. [290229]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information reported by local arm's-length management companies in 2008 on dwellings that meet the Decent Homes standard show that 69 per cent. of their homes met the standard.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the proportion of homes owned by registered social landlords which meet the Decent Homes standard. [290231]

Mr. Ian Austin: As at 31 March 2009 the proportion of homes owned by registered social landlords which met the Decent Homes standard was 91.7 per cent.

Source:
RSR 2009

Social Rented Housing: West Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to increase the standard of social housing in *(a)* West Yorkshire and *(b)* Leeds North West constituency in the next 12 months. [292117]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The Government have provided significant funding to support delivery of Decent Homes Programmes in the social housing sector across West Yorkshire. Such works will help to uplift the condition of housing which is currently deemed non-decent. With the exception of the Wakefield local authority area all other local authority areas in the West Yorkshire sub-region are on track to complete the decency programmes in line with the December 2010 deadline.

In terms of Leeds North West, the Arm's-Length Management Organisation, West North West is on track to deliver decent homes by 2010-11. Significant investment of £1.5 million in 2009-10 and £1.8 million in 2010-11 will be made on decency works and essential maintenance. West North West has also set its own lettable standard which is published on the website and provides for a higher level decency.

In addition, West North West will be investing £74,000 in 2009-10 and £62,000 in 2010-11 on environmental works to complement housing investment and improve the standard of the public realm.

1,500 properties in West North West area will benefit from the Social Housing Energy Saving Programme which will provide insulation measures thus increasing levels of thermal comfort.

Leeds and Kirklees will also benefit from the recent first round announcement regarding the local authority new build programme which was announced in the budget and was recently strengthened by the Housing Pledge. This will provide much needed high quality additional social housing—63 units supported by £3.5 million in Leeds and 36 units supported by almost £2 million grant in Kirklees.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291607]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, but excluding its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years.

	£000
2004-05	70
2005-06	73
2006-07	50
2007-08	74
2008-09	73

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: Import Duties

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Doha Declaration paragraph 31 commitment to reduce or eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers on environmental goods and services. [289736]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Doha Round remains the UK Government's top trade priority and we will continue to work closely with our EU and international partners to secure a deal as early as possible.

Trade liberalisation of environmentally friendly goods and services is an important part of the negotiations. The World Trade Organisation's Committee on Trade and Environment, which is mandated to take forward these negotiations, recently met where all parties, including the EU, reaffirmed their commitment to the negotiations. The UK Government are committed to seeking an early resolution that will support the comprehensive global deal on climate change that we are seeking in Copenhagen this December.

UK Low Carbon Transition Plan

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change against what criteria he expects his Department to decide on the location of the 15 test hubs as identified in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan; and when he expects that decision to be taken. [illegible]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The criteria against which we will be short-listing the 20 test hubs were published on 28 September and we have invited local authorities in England, Wales and N Ireland to participate.

The criteria can be found at

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/consumers/lc_communities/lc_communities.aspx

We expect to announce the location of these short-listed test hubs by the end of this year or early next year.

Warm Front Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been paid to Eaga since the inception of the Warm Front scheme. [illegible]

Mr. Kidney: Payments for Warm Front heating, insulation and other energy efficiency measures, as well as scheme administration, are made to the main contractor, Eaga plc. Eaga deliver these measures through a network of subcontractors. The total value of payments made to Eaga since the beginning of the current phase of the scheme in June 2005 is £1,494 million.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Human Rights: Gender

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the recommendations for Council of Europe member states on human rights and gender identity made by the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights on 29 July 2009; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

Michael Jabez Foster *[holding answer 12 October 2009]*: We are aware of the Commissioner for Human Rights' issue paper on Human Rights and Gender Identity.

We are considering carefully the recommendations he has made and will make clear the Government's response in due course.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of the expenditure of her Department and its predecessors on housing benefit was related to *(a)* social tenants and *(b)* private tenants in each year since 1997; [illegible]

(2) how much has been spent on housing benefit for *(a)* private tenants and *(b)* social tenants in each year since 1997. [illegible]

Helen Goodman: The information is in the following table.

Housing benefit expenditure on social and private tenants (£ million and as a percentage of the total expenditure)

	£ million		*Percentage*	
	Social tenants	*Private tenants*	*Social tenants*	*Private tenants*
1997-98	7,340	3,437	69	31
1998-99	7,883	3,180	71	29
1999-2000	8,098	2,966	73	27
2000-01	8,311	2,851	74	26
2001-02	8,768	2,827	76	24
2002-03	9,615	3,040	76	24
2003-04	9,326	3,028	75	25
2004-05	9,813	3,361	74	26
2005-06	10,222	3,723	73	27
2006-07	10,716	4,143	72	28
2007-08	11,239	4,513	71	29

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures are in millions of pounds, in cash terms.
2. Figures include all housing benefit expenditure, whether funded by DWP and its predecessors, or by local authorities.
3. Figures include expenditure on discretionary housing payments.

Source:

Local authority subsidy returns and housing benefit administrative data.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions were imposed on incapacity benefit claimants who missed their *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third work-focused interview in each quarter since 2003. [291008]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: Data are not available in the form requested.

Minimum Wage: Apprentices

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the merits of applying the national minimum wage to apprentices. [290989]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

The effects of the NMW on younger workers need to be considered carefully to avoid damaging incentives between education and work and ensure the employment prospects of younger workers are not adversely affected.

We know that young workers experience substantially worse unemployment and employment rates than adults. Both are more sensitive to the economic cycle. That is why the Low Pay Commission recommended a separate youth rate from the outset in 1999 and continues to believe there is a case for retaining them. Government and the LPC are concerned that removing the youth rates could adversely affect employment levels for this group. Earlier this year, the LPC recommended that 21-year-olds be entitled to the adult minimum wage. We have accepted this recommendation but, given the current economic conditions, stated that this change will be implemented from October 2010.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Email

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 948W, on Members: email, whether hon. Members' staff are permitted to install on parliamentary computers the encryption software recommended by Parliamentary Information and Communication Technology service. [288673]

Nick Harvey: Yes.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on Members: email, if the Commission will introduce remote access software with which Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) software is compatible to ensure that PGP software can be used on hon. Members' computers. [288675]

Nick Harvey: No, as the product is not compatible with software in use by Parliament.

Members: Security

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will publish a list of the names of parliamentary passholders sponsored by each hon. Member before the start of the next parliamentary session. [292083]

Nick Harvey: The names of parliamentary passholders are the individuals' personal data. Disclosing these names would pose an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of the individuals. Some information on Members' staff (paid and unpaid) is available within the public Register of Interests:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmsecret/memi01.htm

Visits

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the estimated marginal cost of opening Parliament for visitors during the summer adjournment was in 2008; and how much income was received from paying visitors during that period. [292017]

Nick Harvey: The cost of running the summer opening programme in 2008 was £736,026 and the income received from paying visitors was £733,783.

The summer opening programme runs as a cost-neutral (self-financing) operation, the strategy being to break even over a three-year period. The current three-year period, for this purpose, is 2007-09.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Fees and Charges

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* BAA plc and *(b)* the Manchester Airport Group on the change to its methodology for aeronautical charges levied on airlines; and if he will make a statement. [292407]

Paul Clark: Oversight of the level of airport charges at price-controlled airports (currently Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted) is normally a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority. However, as part of the Department's review of the economic regulation of airports officials have taken evidence from BAA, MAG and a number of other stakeholders (including other airports, airlines, and consumer representation bodies). We expect to announce the findings of the review later this year.

Aviation: Security

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will make it his policy to seek *(a)* additional powers for airport security personnel and *(b)* the creation of new and more specific offences in order to protect airline crews and passengers from bad behaviour by other passengers; and if he will make a statement. [292509]

Paul Clark: The information is as follows:

(a) All passengers entering the restricted zone of an airport are subject to screening and searching procedures; these procedures are conducted with the consent of the traveller. Failure by the passenger to undertake this requirement will result in refusal of entry into the restricted zone and aircraft. Security personnel are not state employees and do not have the same powers as control authorities (police and UK Border Agency); they operate by consent only. Where airport security personnel require support from enforcement powers they can request assistance from control authorities.

(b) There is already a range of specific offences related to disruptive passenger behaviour on board aircraft. We consider that existing policy and legislative penalties are sufficient to deal with such behaviour.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many times tolls have been suspended at the Dartford Crossing in the last 12 months. [292444]

Mr. Khan: The charges/tolls have been suspended on four occasions since 1 October 2008.

Three suspensions were planned overnight power outages for two hours each. The fourth occasion was for five and a half hours during a major power failure across south-east London.

Employment Tribunals Service

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many times his Department has been taken to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; what the reason cited in each case was; and in how many cases the tribunal found in favour of the *(a)* employee and *(b)* Department. [290590]

Chris Mole: The total number of employment tribunal cases in each of the last five years is broken down in the table following below and also include figures to date for 2009-10:

Financial year	*Number*	*Withdrawn*	*Settled*	*Ongoing*	*Found in favour of (a) employee*	*Found in favour of (b) Department*
2009-10	11	1	2	7	—	1
2008-09	39	9	12	16	—	2
2007-08	30	8	12	1	1	8
2006-07	9	1	3	—	—	5
2005-06	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2004-05	12	4	3		2	3

[1] Information withheld on grounds of confidentiality as less than five.

The cases above have not been broken down further by category in order to protect the confidentiality of the persons concerned. However, claims include unfair dismissal, sex, race and disability discrimination, declined applications of statutory flexible working requests and unlawful deduction from wages claims.

Overall, 23 were contested and decided at a full hearing of the Employment Tribunal.

Government Departments: Official Cars

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which Minister with a Government car recorded the lowest average daily mileage in that car in the year to 31 March 2009. [291998]

Paul Clark: The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing ministerial cars. It does not record individual journey information and so is unable to calculate how much use each Minister has made of their official car and could provide an answer only at a disproportionate cost.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many of the additional rail carriages announced in the 2007 Rail White Paper have been ordered; and what the timetable is for the ordering of the remainder. [290299]

Chris Mole: 543 new vehicles have been ordered to date.

Following the Government's electrification announcement on 23 July the requirements for rolling stock have been radically altered. We will be publishing an updated Rolling Stock Plan setting out a revised strategy in the autumn.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Landfill: Pollution

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on public health of leakage from landfill sites into aquifers. [292109]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* No recent specific assessment has been made by DEFRA on leakage from landfills into aquifers.

Landfills are subject to strict permitting requirements under European and domestic legislation concerning their location, design, operation, closure and aftercare in order to prevent harm to human health and the environment.

In 2004, the Government published a report that assessed the environmental and health effects of different types of waste management facilities. It looked at leakages from municipal solid waste landfills to surface water and groundwater. It stated:

> "While the lack of data means that the numbers themselves are of poor quality, they indicate that emissions from waste management are a very small proportion of total UK emissions".

Waste Disposal: Greater Manchester

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision has been made by the Government for the underwriting of the recently-agreed Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority private finance initiative scheme. [291994]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has made no provision for the Government to underwrite the recently agreed Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) private finance initiative (PFI) scheme. DEFRA has, however, provided £124,500,000 of PFI credits which assist GMWDA payment obligations under the contract itself. These payments made by GMWDA would only be made for services actually received.

Waste Management

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* London and *(b)* Greater Manchester waste authorities on their strategic waste management policies in respect of (i) site management of waste, (ii) locations of waste management sites and (iii) the combination of waste technologies selected. [291991]

Dan Norris: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs spoke to the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority about the work they are doing on waste management when he went to Manchester on 24 September. Helen Ghosh, DEFRA's permanent secretary, also visited the Waithlands Recycling Centre in Greater Manchester on 5 August.

No recent discussions have been held with the London waste authorities.

Waste: Renewable Energy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have embarked on local consultation on their energy-from-waste strategy since the publication of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy. [291986]

Dan Norris: In order for a local authority to submit an outline business case (OBC) to request private finance initiative (PFI) credits, they must have embarked upon a public consultation exercise.

Since the publication of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy, DEFRA has not received any new OBCs, therefore we are not aware of any consultations.

Water: Meters

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water meters were installed in residential dwellings by water supply companies in each water supply area in each of the last three years. [289271]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table sets out the number of meters water supply companies have installed in households in the last three years.

Total household meters installed each year

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Water and sewerage companies			
Anglian (including Hartlepool Water)	25,516	28,586	33,222
Dwr Cymru	18,753	15,042	19,947
Northumbrian Water (including Essex and Suffolk Water)	41,743	34,489	31,292
Severn Trent Water	38,594	33,215	44,331
South West Water	26,330	28,528	23,162
Southern Water	35,847	19,224	21,160
Thames Water	47,204	34,519	36,288
United Utilities	39,503	37,734	58,240
Wessex Water	11,325	11,277	18,570
Yorkshire Water	32,391	25,176	40,144
Water only companies			
Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water	6,353	4,755	4,806
Bristol Water	7,285	5,949	9,431
Cambridge Water	1,466	1,381	1,432
Dee Valley Water	2,659	2,432	2,487
Folkestone Water	5,117	3,793	3,787
Portsmouth	5,797	3,734	5,219
South East Water (including Mid-Kent Water)	21,959	14,489	13,339
South Staffordshire Water	6,176	4,344	7,568
Sutton and East Surrey Water	8,871	5,814	7,179
Tendring Hundred Water	1,110	890	1,242
Three Valleys Water	40,933	30,351	28,247

Source:
Ofwat.

TREASURY

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken in the last three months to require banks to provide *(a)* financial resources and *(b)* credit lines to companies and businesses which wish to purchase construction and agricultural vehicles and equipment from UK companies. [247883]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 January 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

The Government recognise that the current economic climate is causing significant difficulties for established businesses and start-up firms alike.

The recapitalisation of the banks and subsequent measures to support bank lending, are essential to secure and sustain a competitive UK lending market. This is essential for businesses given that the vast majority looking for finance will continue to seek support from mainstream lenders, and not from Government supported schemes.

The UK is the first country in the world to have negotiated legally binding lending commitments with banks receiving state support. The Royal Bank of Scotland have committed to £25 billion of additional net lending over the next 12 months, including £16 billion for lending to businesses. Lloyds have committed to an additional £3 billion of gross mortgage lending and £11 billion of additional net lending to businesses over the next 12 months. Both agreements are in effect immediately.

While supporting lenders to continue lending, the Government have also introduced targeted support for viable businesses who continue to struggle to raise finance from commercial sources. For small and medium businesses who find themselves on the margins of commercial lending decisions, the £13 billion Enterprise Finance Guarantee encourages lenders to extend their usual lending criteria by providing them with additional security in the form of a Government backed guarantee.

The Government continue to work with the banks and business representative bodies, through fora such as the Small Business Finance Forum, and we continue to monitor bank lending to SMEs, with the Bank of England.

The measures delivered by the Government are across all sectors, including the construction and agricultural sectors.

Business: Government Assistance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have had an application for assistance from the business payment support service declined in each month since the scheme was introduced. [291968]

Mr. Timms: The business payment support service was introduced on 24 November 2008. To 27 September 2009 6,119 requests for time to pay tax due have not been agreed by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), representing 1.9 per cent. of the total requests received. Some businesses will have submitted more than one request.

The following table provides the monthly breakdown.

Period	*Requests not agreed*
24 November 2008 - 1 March 2009[1]	1230
2 March 2009 - 29 March 2009	414
30 March 2009 - 3 May 2009	522
4 May 2009 - 31 May 2009	407
1 June 2009 - 28 June 2009	473
29 June 2009 - 26 July 2009[2]	2263
27 July 2009 - 30 August 2009	422
31 August 2009 - 27 September 2009	388
Total	6119

Notes:

[1] Disaggregated figures are not available prior to 2 March 2009.

[2] Validation work in July 2009 led to the data capture of requests for time to pay agreements that had been processed but not previously entered on HM Revenue and Customs' management information systems.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292658]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not hold a central record of payments made to charitable organisations and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Child Benefit

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much child benefit was paid to children living in each other EU country in the latest period for which figures are available. [292011]

Mr. Timms: According to the latest statistics there are 30,068 child benefit awards in payment in respect of 50,586 children resident in other member states. A geographical breakdown of these awards by member state can be found in the following table.

Country	*Number of awards at 8 October 2009*	*Number of children included in awards*
Austria	29	52
Belgium	153	297
Bulgaria	45	70
Cyprus	51	82
Czech Republic	197	340
Denmark	13	24
Estonia	17	30
Finland	16	29
France	1,256	2,346
Germany	311	529
Greece	51	81
Hungary	96	172
Iceland	2	4
Italy	175	300
Latvia	259	346
Lithuania	747	1,093
Luxembourg	14	26
Malta	17	26
Norway	45	92
Poland	22,858	37,941
Portugal	222	329
Republic of Ireland	883	1,818
Romania	36	53
Slovakia	1,483	2,573
Slovenia	5	7
Spain	741	1,230
Sweden	57	107
Switzerland	104	216
The Netherlands	185	373
Totals	30,068	50,586

The value of the benefit paid is only available at disproportionate costs because under the EC social security co-ordinating regulations (EC Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72) not all awards of child benefit in respect of children living in other member states are made at the full UK rate.

Departmental Incentives

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290604]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury offers a wide range of benefits to all of its employees. A summary of these is published on its recruitment website:

http://recruitment.treasury.gov.uk/policyadvisors/rewards.php

Performance related pay increases and non-consolidated performance awards for all eligible staff are linked to the annual performance appraisal system. All staff below the Senior Civil Service are assessed against their peers in relation to the Treasury competency framework and the achievement of their performance objectives. Awards are paid in recognition of excellent performance throughout the appraisal year. Reward arrangements for staff in the Senior Civil Service are based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

HM Treasury also pays non-consolidated special performance awards to recognise exceptional performance for specific contributions or pieces of work during the year, or for situations outside the normal expectations of a post.

The following table gives details of the amounts paid and number of recipients of non-consolidated performance awards paid in 2008-09. For details of previous years, I refer the hon. Lady to the answer my predecessor gave to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 164W.

HM Treasury non-consolidated performance pay awards paid in 2008-09

	No of staff[1]	*Amount paid (£000)*[2]
Performance awards[3]	437	1,090
Special performance awards[4]	411	164

[1] Non-consolidated awards were paid in 2008-09 in respect of staff performance in the 2007-08 performance appraisal year.

[2] Special performance awards are paid at various times during the year, and may relate to specific contributions or pieces of work completed in the previous year.

[3] The number of staff receiving bonuses includes individuals who received more than one bonus in the period.

[4] The amounts paid by HM Treasury excludes amounts recovered from external organisations to which staff were seconded at the time of payment.

Departmental Pay

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department had a salary of more than £64,000 in the latest year for which figures are available. [291999]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 91 members of staff currently working at HM Treasury have a full-time equivalent consolidated base salary of more than £64,000.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by the Department in each of the last five years; what the reason cited in each case was; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination in each year were. [290600]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury defines a dismissal as either the termination of a permanent contract for a major breach of its terms, or the non-renewal of a fixed-term contract. HM Treasury does not provide information relating to numbers of staff fewer than five where to do so might lead to the identification of protected information concerning individual cases.

In each of the five years to 2008-09, fewer than five permanent staff were dismissed from HM Treasury. The table below shows the number and costs of non-renewals of fixed-term contracts in those years; of these 351 contracts, 167 related to staff working at HM Treasury under its student placement schemes.

Fixed-term contracts not renewed at HM Treasury 2004-05 to 2008-09

	Number	Costs (£000)
2004-05	74	—
2005-06	49	0·5
2006-07	62	—
2007-08	97	—
2008-09	69	—

Financial Services Authority

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria the Financial Services Authority takes into account in regulating the take-over of listed public companies by Kazakh companies; and if he will make a statement. [291261]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Takeover Panel is the authority designated to supervise and regulate takeovers in the UK.

The Panel's statutory functions are set out in part 28 of the Companies Act 2006 and include powers to make rules governing the orderly conduct of takeovers in the UK as set out in the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers.

It would therefore be for the Panel to decide on issues of non-compliance with the rules in respect of takeovers in the UK. They may seek to enforce breaches of the Code through the courts and the Financial Services Authority.

Insolvency: EC Action

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely cost to *(a)* the public purse, *(b)* insurance companies and *(c)* individuals of implementing the draft EU Solvency II Directive. [292092]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* A final estimate of the impact of the EU Solvency Directive cannot be made until the Commission publishes its proposals for Level 2 implementing measures. The Government's initial assessment of the impact is set out in the Explanatory Memorandum on the Level 1 Directive EM 6996/08: Amended proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the taking-up and pursuit of the business of Insurance and Re-insurance, Solvency II.

Overseas Trade: Kazakhstan

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on encouraging reciprocal investments between Kazakh and listed public companies; and if he will make a statement. [291262]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The aim of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is to help companies to realise opportunities around the world that will deliver an economic benefit to the UK. To do this UKTI prioritises the markets that we are active in. UKTI offers a full range of services for companies who wish to do business in Kazakhstan through trade and investment teams based in Astana and Atyrau.

UKTI actively encourages investment into the UK from companies in many developed and some emerging markets. Although Kazakhstan is not a priority market for inward investment, UKTI assistance would be available to Kazakh companies who were interested in investing here.

Tax Collection: Administration

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the administration costs to HM Revenue and Customs of implementing the changes to tax collection recommended by the Calman Commission report. [289811]

Mr. Timms: The Government are considering carefully the recommendations made in the report by the Commission on Scottish Devolution chaired by Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, including issues around implementation.

Taxation: British Overseas Territories

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer received in taxation from UK overseas territories in the latest period for which figures are available. [292518]

Mr. Timms: Taxation is a devolved competence in the UK overseas territories under the terms of their constitutions and UK tax legislation does not apply to them. Exceptionally, however, three overseas territories apply a withholding tax on income from savings of UK residents under the terms of an agreement with the UK providing for measures equivalent to the European Savings Directive.

The amounts paid to the United Kingdom by those overseas territories in relation to these withholding taxes for the most recent year available are shown in the following table.

Special Withholding Tax Received by the United Kingdom by virtue of European Savings Directive or equivalent agreements: Overseas Territory period ending in UK Tax year 2008-09, tax received in 2009 (as at September 2009)

UK Overseas territories	*Year end*	*Amount of withholding tax* *Approx. £ equivalent*
British Virgin Islands	31 December 2008	2,470.39
Gibraltar	30 June 2008	379,801.55
Turks and Caicos Islands	30 September 2008	2,901.36

SCOTLAND

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291606]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office spend on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years was as follows:

	Cost (£)
2004-05	10,938
2005-06	20,610
2006-07	10,441
2007-08	17,786
2008-09	19,076

The figures do not include the Government Car Service London costs for which I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 79WS.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289734]

Ann McKechin: I have responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money at the Scotland Office. The Secretary of State and I both take an active role in ensuring that the Scotland Office delivers value for money in all its activities. The Scotland Office does not directly deliver services, so has not established a dedicated public sector reform team.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290557]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development operates non-consolidated performance related pay award schemes for:

Senior Civil Servants (SCS)

Staff in grades below SCS

The number of staff eligible and the cost of operating the schemes in the last five years are shown in the following table.

Non-consolidated performance related award scheme

		Cost (£) per year				
	Number of eligible staff	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
SCS	98	266,750	377,100	504,000	641,510	634,150
Below SCS grade	1520	230,600	515,865[1]	558,233	199,670[2]	736,815

[1] The significant increase in the value of awards from 2005-06 onwards is because changes to the Special Achievement Awards (SAA) scheme were introduced as part of a new pay deal in 2004-05.

[2] The SAA scheme for DFID staff below the SCS ended on 31 July 2007, with IBAS not becoming effective until the following reporting year (2008-09).

These non-consolidated costs are contained within the overall increases for pay awards agreed with HM Treasury as a small percentage of the total pay bills. Performance awards are not guaranteed and have to be re-earned each year. The main purposes of both schemes are to:

have clear links between pay and performance

encourage and reward sustained high performance against set criteria

comply with central Cabinet Office and HM Treasury frameworks and guidelines on pay and reward.

Developing Countries: Internet

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many children have accessed the One World Zone of the Gold Star Café internet site funded by his Department through the Development Awareness Fund. [291620]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) funded the One World Zone of the Gold Star Cafe internet site through the Development Awareness Fund from April 2006 to March 2009. During the three years of DFID support to the zone, there were approximately 90,000 visits.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Breaking the Silence: Finance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding his Department provided through UK embassies and overseas missions to the non-governmental organisation Breaking the Silence between April 2006 and April 2009. [291997]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have spent £78,701 since April 2006 to support Breaking the Silence's educational tours of Hebron. This financial year we have allocated a further £38,233 to Breaking the Silence, again for their educational tours of Hebron.

The Government fund Breaking the Silence through the Conflict Prevention Pool, which is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. It is a shared budget to support the Government's conflict prevention policies.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff there were in his Department *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [292063]

Chris Bryant: There have been numerous organisational changes in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) since 1997. Explaining changes in staff strength over that period is, therefore, not straightforward. In 1997 the FCO employed 5,539 Full Time Equivalent UK based staff, including those working on entry clearance. The comparable figure for 1 October 2009 is 5,478. This includes just under 950 staff in FCO Services, which is now a Trading Fund but excludes staff working on entry clearance. This function has transferred to the UK Border Agency (UKBA)—an agency of the Home Office.

The reduction in FCO numbers since 1997 is the net effect of:

the transfer to UKBA of the entry clearance function;

expansion in the consular and migration functions; and

efficiency savings in other areas.

Iraq: Iran

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Iraq on the treatment of those living in Camp Ashraf. [292431]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador in Iraq met with the Iraqi Human Rights Minister on 6 October 2009 to discuss the situation at Camp Ashraf and the latest developments surrounding the 36 camp residents who were arrested on 28 July 2009. Our ambassador has also raised the issue with the Iraqi Prime Minister's office and the Minister of Internal Affairs.

We remain in close contact with the US, UN and EU, who regularly discuss the issues around the camp with the Iraqi authorities. Also, our UK Representative to the UN in Geneva has also discussed the situation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Officials from our embassy in Baghdad visited the camp on Saturday 26 September 2009. They confirmed that Iraqi police and Iraqi Security Forces were present inside the camp, and were co-operating peacefully with the residents.

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 11 March from the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling on behalf of Mrs. Debra Guneri. [291047]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: I have been asked to reply.

The right hon. Member's letter was passed to me for reply and I replied on 7 September.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will request the High Commissioner to South Africa to ensure that the hon. Member for West Chelmsford receives a response to the matters raised in his letters to the High Commissioner of 17 July 2009, 13 August 2009 and 7 September 2009 and his telephone conversations with the High Commissioner on 16 September 2009 about the case of Mr. Ian Freshwater of Chelmsford. [292154]

Chris Bryant: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have drawn this request to the attention of the South African high commission in London. Officials at the South African high commission will follow up this request.

Morocco: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received concerning *(a)* the detention in Morocco of six Western Saharan students who were to travel to the UK and *(b)* Morocco's obligations under Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [292453]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have received representations from the UK-based Western Sahara Campaign, the Talk Together project in Oxford and the UN Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland about the case of the Moroccan and Saharwi students prevented from travelling to the UK on 5 August 2009 to attend a conference on cross-cultural understanding and conflict resolution, organised by Talk Together.

Razouk Choummad

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ask HM Ambassador in Rabat to investigate the detention on 1 September 2009 of Mr. Razouk Choummad. [292452]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador to Morocco and his staff at our embassy in Rabat have already sought clarification from the Moroccan Government regarding Mr. Razouk Choummad and the other Sahrawi students due to take part in an event in Oxford in August this year.

The Government made clear to the Moroccan authorities that they regretted that the students had been prevented from travelling to the UK and that they were concerned by allegations of the disproportionate use of force.

The Moroccan Government have told us that they remain open to participating in future events organised by Talk Together and have investigated the allegations of mistreatment, which they deny. We will continue to seek further clarification from the Moroccan authorities.

Yemen: Armed Conflict

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss the conflict in Yemen with his Saudi Arabian counterpart. [291975]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Yemen with His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al Faisal on a number of occasions, most recently earlier this month. The UK and Saudi Arabia are both committed to supporting the Government of Yemen in addressing the difficult challenges they face, including the conflict in the Northern region of Sa'dah.

We have welcomed the commitment by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to work with the UN to facilitate the safe passage of emergency relief supplies to the internally displaced persons in Northern Yemen. The UK will provide £2 million of additional humanitarian aid to the situation.

I will continue to discuss the situation in Yemen with His Royal Highness as and when the opportunity arises, and my officials will remain in regular contact with their Saudi counterparts.

DEFENCE

Armed Conflict: Children

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to review the operation of the interpretative declaration on article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict for the purposes of *(a)* taking steps to ensure that children are not exposed to the risk of taking direct part in hostilities and *(b)* monitoring Government compliance with the spirit of the Optional Protocol. [291448]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to review the operation of the interpretative declaration on article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Government policy is that Service Personnel under the age of 18 are not routinely deployed on operations outside the UK. The exception to this is where the operation does not involve personnel becoming engaged in or exposed to hostilities, such as disaster relief.

The MOD believes that its policies on under 18s are robust and compliant with national and international law. We remain fully committed to meeting our obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training has been delivered to armed forces personnel on the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict; and how many such personnel have completed that training. [291674]

Bill Rammell: All members of the armed forces receive training on the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) shortly after joining and regularly throughout their careers.

The UK armed forces do not routinely train all personnel on the Optional Protocol specifically, but personnel involved in handling prisoners of war, internees and detainees receive training which addresses the handling of juveniles and children.

Electronic Warfare

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has held with his US counterpart on vulnerability to electromagnetic pulse attacks; and if he will make a statement. [289837]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 October 2009]*: Defence equipment and systems are procured against a set of specifications that includes appropriate protection against electromagnetic attack. These specifications are informed by appropriate consultation at expert level with relevant experts.

Littoral Warfare: Helicopters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of training provided for helicopter pilots participating in amphibious operations. [290328]

Bill Rammell: The UK amphibious helicopter capability is provided by the Commando Helicopter Force operating Sea King Mk 4 and Lynx Mk 7 helicopters, augmented when required by Chinook and Apache helicopters.

The initial training provided to helicopter pilots as part of the Commando Helicopter Force is considered satisfactory. The tempo of land operations over recent years has had an impact on the ability to conduct amphibious operations. Nevertheless, small scale exercises have been achieved and a minimal level of currency and competency for amphibious operations maintained.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timescale is within which the helicopter fund announced by the Prime Minister will deliver 11 helicopters. [289530]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The first helicopters will be deployed in Afghanistan before the end of 2009. On current plans, further deliveries will take place in 2010 and will complete by the end of 2013.

Additional contributions to the fund would increase the total.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the length of time it would take *(a)* to place an order for new Merlin helicopters, *(b)* for Agusta Westland to manufacture the new helicopters and *(c)* for the armed forces to bring the new helicopters into service after delivery. [292330]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We recently reviewed whether the acquisition of new medium helicopters could be advanced in lieu of the planned life-extension of the Puma helicopter. Several companies, including Agusta Westland provided outline cost and delivery information for their potential candidate aircraft in support of this review. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, we cannot disclose details of their proposals, including delivery estimates.

More generally, the timescales for procurement decisions are dependent on the urgency of the capability need, the value and complexity of the procurement, and the time needed to demonstrate that the solution meets the requirement and represents value for money. We have 'fast track' arrangements for those capabilities required urgently for operations. Once manufactured, it can take significant time to bring a helicopter to the standard required to meet any role, mission or theatre specific requirements, to train crews (and maintainers) accordingly, and to ensure that the aircraft meets the required specification and airworthiness standards, and can withstand the rigours of war.

Territorial Army: Training

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on the deployability of the Territorial Army of the limitation on man training days. [292125]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The Army is on a campaign footing with activity focused on support to current operations.

Man training days are being prioritized to ensure that mobilised TA personnel continue to be properly prepared for their operational roles, prior to deploying alongside their regular counterparts.

HEALTH

Cancer Services

14. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of cancer services in *(a)* Billericay constituency and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [292241]

Ann Keen: The first annual report of the "Cancer Reform Strategy", published in December 2008, is the most recent assessment of cancer service provision in England. The report showed that good progress is being made against the objectives of the Strategy.

Funding for local health services has been allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. It is therefore for South West Essex PCT in partnership with East of England Strategic Health Authority and the local Cancer Network to make an assessment of cancer services in Billericay.

Dentistry

15. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to NHS dentistry in England. [292242]

Ann Keen: More than 27.6 million people saw an NHS dentist in the 24 months ending June 2009. This is almost three quarters of a million more than in the same period ending June 2008. The number of dentists working in the NHS, and the number of courses of NHS dental treatment provided are also growing steadily. We have invested a record £2 billion in dentistry and set up a national access programme to help the NHS deliver its goal of access for all who seek it by 2011. We therefore expect access to continue to increase.

PCT Boundaries

16. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the restructuring of primary care trust boundaries on the delivery of healthcare. [292243]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the NHS locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders and advocated through Lord Darzi's 2008 publication "Leading Local Change".

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

17. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to receive an application for foundation trust status from East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust. [292244]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I expect East Lancashire Hospitals National Health Service Trust to make a foundation trust application late in 2010.

Emergency Care

18. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the delivery of emergency care in *(a)* independent sector treatment centres and *(b)* NHS hospitals. [292245]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Independent sector treatment centres provide elective care, not emergency care.

Primary care trusts commission national health service hospital trusts to provide emergency care services according to local needs and monitor performance.

The Department has set an operational standard that 98 per cent. of patients should not spend more than four hours in accident and emergency departments.

National annual performance against the standard was 98.1 per cent. in 2008-09.

Strategic Health Authorities

19. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the role of strategic health authorities in promoting public health. [292246]

Gillian Merron: The Strategic Health Authority Assurance Framework reaffirms their role in promoting public health by including a specific section on "Improving and protecting Health and Wellbeing".

Combining self-assessments and site visits, a Panel chaired by the Department will assess performance against the Framework over the next few months.

Swine Flu

20. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to assist acute hospital trusts in which levels of accident and emergency department admissions have increased as a result of the swine influenza pandemic. [292247]

Gillian Merron: The NHS, including acute hospitals, has been preparing for pandemic influenza for several years, and all organisations have robust plans in place that cover the whole health economy. These have recently been tested by a series of comprehensive exercises and confirmed by each Board's assurance statements during September.

The Department has also issued guidance on surging capacity so that hospitals can care for increased numbers of admissions.

National No Smoking Day

21. **Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to fund National No Smoking Day in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [292248]

Gillian Merron: We will make funding available for No Smoking Day's 2010 campaign at around the same level as last year, on a regional basis.

Waiting Times

22. **Shona McIsaac:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the length of waiting times in North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust; and if he will make a statement. [292250]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In July 2009, 99.4 per cent. of admitted patients, and 98 per cent. of non-admitted patients at the trust started consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of referral.

Staff at the trust should be congratulated for their efforts in helping to bring about this achievement.

Out-of-hours Care: London

23. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the provision and quality of out-of-hours care in London. [292251]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Primary care trusts have a legal requirement to provide high quality out-of-hours cover for the local population, and strategic health authorities are responsible for the performance management of PCTs in their region. The 2008 Healthcare Commission review of urgent and emergency care found that the NHS has significantly improved performance since 2005.

PCT Funding

24. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the primary care trust allocation formula used in 2009-10. [292252]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The independent Advisory Committee on resource allocation keeps the formula under continual scrutiny, updating it to account for new information and data, changes in service provision and health outcomes. The 2009-10 formula builds and improves on the previous formula, targeting funding where it is needed most.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency departments in Greater London were not open 24 hours a day on the latest date for which information is available. [291724]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: By definition a Type 1 accident and emergency (A&E) department must be open 24 hours a day. All other types of A&E departments need not be open for that period. The opening times of departments are not collected centrally.

Acute Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* acute and *(b)* critical care beds were reported in situation reports to his Department as being in use in hospitals in each week since 1 April 2009. [291860]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The requested information is contained in the following table. This is a snapshot of the number of beds available at midnight on the Thursday of the week. The availability of beds nationally will vary on an almost constant basis and therefore these figures should not be compared with data on critical care bed availability published in other formats. The data are validated locally but may be subject to revisions.

Number of acute and critical care beds, available and occupied, England, each week since April 2009

Period	*Adult critical care beds at midnight on the Thursday of the reporting period*		*Number of neonatal critical care cots (or beds) at midnight on the Thursday of the reporting period*		*Number of paediatric critical care beds at midnight on the Thursday of the reporting period*		*Total number of acute hospital beds at midnight on the Thursday of the reporting period*	
Week ending:	*Available*	*Occupied*	*Available*	*Occupied*	*Available*	*Occupied*	*Available*	*Occupied*
5 April 2009	3,265	2,901	1,081	816	359	258	104,869	95,509
12 April 2009	3,282	2,852	1,076	803	378	254	101,921	88,669
19 April 2009	3,313	2,862	1,088	[illegible]	357	267	104,550	93,411
26 April 2009	3,312	2,835	1,083	[illegible]	[illegible]	262	103,495	91,977
3 May 2009	3,307	2,885	1,066	819	320	221	103,032	91,719
10 May 2009	3,373	2,855	1,108	856	367	269	103,367	93,145
17 May 2009	3,335	2,915	1,087	866	355	257	103,565	93,079
24 May 2009	3,361	2,825	1,089	854	365	258	103,495	92,682
31 May 2009	3,379	2,857	1,074	812	350	243	104,057	91,133
7 June 2009	3,279	2,911	1,085	824	374	258	103,096	92,194
14 June 2009	3,316	2,897	1,111	848	352	247	103,705	91,663
21 June 2009	3,302	2,846	1,082	830	372	264	102,918	90,883
28 June 2009	3,321	2,740	1,083	827	360	262	103,102	90,804

Number of acute and critical care beds, available and occupied, England, each week since April 2009

Period	*Adult critical care beds at midnight on the Thursday of the reporting period*		*Number of neonatal critical care cots (or beds) at midnight on the Thursday of the reporting period*		*Number of paediatric critical care beds at midnight on the Thursday of the reporting period*		*Total number of acute hospital beds at midnight on the Thursday of the reporting period*	
Week ending:	*Available*	*Occupied*	*Available*	*Occupied*	*Available*	*Occupied*	*Available*	*Occupied*
5 July 2009	3,310	2,789	1,099	791	364	230	103,021	91,984
12 July 2009	3,356	2,808	1,098	835	349	247	102,791	91,128
19 July 2009	3,352	2,830	1,121	820	359	236	101,699	89,175
26 July 2009	3,301	2,801	1,120	825	357	238	102,787	89,077
2 August 2009	3,319	2,748	1,114	786	360	240	102,421	87,995
9 August 2009	3,384	2,752	1,109	767	362	237	102,651	88,478
16 August 2009	3,388	2,739	1,117	761	360	244	102,415	88,532
23 August 2009	3,335	2,691	1,133	809	402	260	101,333	90,410
30 August 2009	3,329	2,683	1,125	807	389	238	102,317	88,378
6 September 2009	3,370	2,725	1,119	810	328	216	102,027	89,143

Notes:
1. Data within the 'Weekly SitReps' collection are subject to revision. Therefore data may differ from previous submissions.
2. Acute beds collected on the 'Weekly SitReps' collection is a voluntary data item.
3. Data are provided from the start of the financial year, which for SitReps means the first week is week ending 5 April 2009.
Source:
Department of Health form—Weekly SitReps

Breastfeeding

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have called the National Breastfeeding Helpline in each of the last two years. [291933]

Ann Keen: The National Breastfeeding Helpline was launched in February 2008. Since then, there has been a steady increase in the number of calls received. The total number of calls received between February 2008 and August 2009 is 24,087 as shown in the following table.

2008-09	*Number of calls received*
February 2008 to February 2009	11,430
March 2009 to August 2009	12,657
Total	24,087

Cancer: Diagnosis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many additional *(a)* staff, *(b)* diagnostic centres and *(c)* diagnostics machines he estimates will be required to implement his proposals to provide patients with access to cancer diagnostics within one week of concerns being raised. [292540]

Ann Keen: On 29 September, my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister announced plans to offer all patients in England access to tests which can confirm or exclude cancer within one week.

Remarkable progress has been made in reducing diagnostic waiting times to date. In April 2006 (when figures for diagnostic waiting times were first published) there were 404,200 waits over six weeks for diagnostic tests and the average time waited was six weeks. The number of waits over six weeks at the end of August 2009 was 4,000—a reduction of 98.9 per cent.—and patients can now expect to wait on average under two weeks for a diagnostic test.

Due to the record investment that this Government have already made since 1997, there are more than 42,000 extra scientific and therapeutic staff. By 2008, the number of consultants working in radiology had increased by 54 per cent. to 2,269, and the number of qualified radiographers employed in the national health service by 28 per cent. to 15,600, 13,400 of whom were working in diagnostics therefore the NHS is very well placed to deliver this commitment.

The commitment will be phased in over five years and where extra staff are required, these will be developed with the NHS and reflect service redesign and new models of delivery. The NHS already has a solid platform on which to build.

The appropriate balance between expanding existing diagnostic capacity and developing new models of delivery such as diagnostics centres will be considered in consultation with the National Quality Board and the NHS.

Initial estimates are that the extra activity required by the NHS in England over the five years of the programme equates to 155 pieces of Ultrasound equipment, 75 in Computed Tomography, 60 for Magnetic Resource Imaging, and 85 for Endoscopy , but this does not mean that the NHS will need to purchase this many new machines. Additional equipment requirements will be worked up with the NHS taking in to account new models of delivery and changes in working practices.

The proposal takes forward the commitment in the Government's "Cancer Reform" Strategy published in 2007, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, to improve access to diagnostics in primary care. We will be consulting widely on the implementation of these proposals, working with the NHS, key stakeholders and the professions to ensure that this commitment to patients is successfully delivered.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects his proposals to provide patients with access to cancer diagnostics within one week of concerns being raised to cost *(a)* in each financial year for which figures are available and *(b)* in (i) capital and (ii) revenue costs over the period of the programme; and from which budgets the funding for the proposals will be taken. [292541]

Ann Keen: Further work is being undertaken to finalise the costs of implementing these plans, to refine the modelling and assumptions that underlie them. This will take account of the investment made to date in improving cancer and diagnostic services and new models of delivery.

Remarkable progress has been made in reducing diagnostic waiting times to date. In April 2006 (when figures for diagnostic waiting times were first published) there were 404,200 waits over six weeks for diagnostic tests and the average time waited was six weeks. The number of waits over six weeks at the end of August 2009 was 4,000—a reduction of 98 per cent.—and patients can now expect to wait on average under two weeks for a diagnostic test.

Initial estimates are as follows:

Capital costs will be about £650 million between the periods 2011-12 and 2014-15.

Early estimates of revenue costs are in the region of £1,250 million between the periods 2011-12 and 2014-15.

Final costing requirements and profiling will be worked up over the coming months in consultation with the national health service taking into account new models of delivery and changes in working practices.

The proposal takes forward the commitment in the Government's Cancer Reform Strategy published in 2007 to improve access to diagnostics in primary care. We will be consulting widely on the implementation of these proposals, working with the NHS, key stakeholders and the professions to ensure that this commitment to patients is successfully delivered.

The major programme of renovating and rebuilding NHS hospitals is nearing completion. As this winds down it will release the resources to switch into new diagnostic equipment.

CJD: Screening

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department expects to commence the second stage of trials for the anticipated blood test for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; and if he will make a statement. [292342]

Ann Keen: Evaluation of prototype variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease blood test is ongoing, and results of the latest round of tests are expected to be considered by the Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease Resource Centre Oversight Committee by the end of the year.

Departmental Advertising

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which initiatives of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been advertised in each of the last five years; how much was spent in each case; and which initiatives were advertised via the Central Office of Information. [292087]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the Department's advertising expenditure over the last five completed financial years. A further breakdown of these figures is available in the Library.

All departmental advertising listed as follows was carried out via the Central Office of Information (COI), with the exception of those initiatives highlighted with an asterisk. To identify other ad hoc expenditure not carried out via the COI would incur disproportionate cost.

Department of Health advertising spend[1] 2004-05 to 2008-09

£ million

Campaign	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]
Alcohol[3]	0.00	0.00	0.56	0.61	4.77
Antibiotics	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.39	1.15
Change4Life	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.69
Drugs[4]	0.91	0.18	1.34	0.67	1.45
Flu (Immunisation)	1.45	1.83	1.11	0.98	1.42
Hepatitis C	0.00	0.00	0.52	1.34	1.30
HPV Vaccination	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80
Immunisation	0.00	0.00	1.66	0.00	0.32
National Health Service including nurse recruitment	5.96	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
NHS Injury Benefits Scheme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
NHS Choices*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.55
Patient Choice*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53
Respiratory and Hand Hygiene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.53
Sexual health/teenage pregnancy	1.40	0.00	2.88	3.11	2.83
Social care/worker recruitment	1.80	2.42	2.31	2.22	2.03
Smoking—Tobacco Control	20.05	20.80	13.17	10.79	23.38
Stroke	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.52
Tobacco Legislation	0.00	0.00	0.32	5.38	0.00
Winter (Get the right treatment/ask about medicines day)	0.54	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.00
5 a Day	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
E111/EHIC	0.24	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.16
Department of Health outdoor campaign	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	32.73	27.47	23.92	26.24	56.43

[1] Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, COI commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from COI official turnover figures. All figures are rounded to the nearest £10,000. These figures do not include departmental recruitment/classified advertising costs and ad hoc spend under £10,000. These figures may include occasional minor spend through COI by NHS organisations, to supplement national campaigns in their area. While this expenditure has been excluded as far as possible so that this chart reflects central departmental spend, it would incur disproportionate cost to validate that every item of NHS expenditure has been removed.

[2] Provisional figures.

[3] From 2006-07 Department of Health contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office.

[4] Department of Health contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* mobile telephones, (b) Blackberrys and *(c)* laptop computers, were issued to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following the (A) loss or (B) theft of a previous device. [290438]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold detailed historic information about its issue of mobile devices to staff, but with the advent of the new Human Resources System, Business Management System, and Asset Management tools, we can say that, as at the end of

August 2009, the number of mobile assets allocated to staff or business units was as follows:

Laptops: 2,431

Blackberry: 1,334

Mobile telephones: 1,008.

In addition the Department does not differentiate between devices issued to new staff or existing staff and therefore does not hold this information. However, the following table gives the number of devices lost or stolen in the last five years.

Losses and thefts for period April 2004 to March 2009

	Mobile telephones	Blackberrys	Laptops
2004-05	15	2	23
2005-06	11	4	18
2006-07	18	5	11
2007-08	21	9	14
2008-09	18	22	34
Totals	83	42	100

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff there were in his Department *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [292864]

Phil Hope: According to the Departmental Report for 1998, there were 4,486 full time equivalent (FTE) civil servants in the 1996-97 financial year.

According to the Departmental Report for 2009 annual report there were 2,222 FTE civil servants in the 2008-09 financial year.

The Departmental Reports for the above years and the intervening years can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/AnnualReports/index.htm#jumpTo1

Departmental Marketing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget of his Department for publicity is in 2009-10. [292904]

Phil Hope: A total budget figure for the 2009-10 financial year cannot be provided at this stage as detailed planning for some campaigns is under way and advertising media allocations have not yet been finalised.

The Department's expenditure on advertising for the 2009-10 financial year to date is approximately £29.6 million.

This figure does not include the Department's recruitment/classified advertising costs. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from Central Office of Information official turnover figures.

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290447]

Phil Hope: The Department operates two reward systems for its permanent staff. The first, which is for staff below the Senior Civil Service (SCS), is geared towards recruiting and retaining staff with the right qualities to drive high performance within the organisation. The second system for SCS is based on annual recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body and its terms of reference can be found in its latest report at the following website:

www.ome.uk.com/review.cfm?body=4

The Department and its agencies also operate a scheme which allows managers to recognise outstanding contributions in particularly demanding situations. These in-year non-consolidated performance payments (IYNCPPs) for the past five years are shown in the following table. The growth in payments over the last three years is related to the abolition of pay flexibilities in the Department's 2006 Reward Strategy and the scheme is currently under review.

The Department operates a long service award scheme—a reward of either a monetary nature or special leave, which is given to staff in recognition of having served for more than 20 years. The figures available for the monetary payments are presented as follows. The information about leave taken instead of payment is not held centrally and would incur disproportional cost to establish.

Monetary payments

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	£	Number	£	Number	£	Number	£	Number	£	Number
IYNCPPs	420,720.92	555	351,886.09	465	326,897.99	256	486,257.35	457	709,386.14	786
Long service award	4,200.00	21	3,200.00	15	3,200.00	16	3,000.00	15	2,400.00	12
Total	424,920.92	576	355,086.09	480	330,097.99	272	489,257.35	472	711,786.14	798

The Department runs a child care voucher scheme and a cycle to work scheme.

Overall staff costs and numbers can be found in the Resource Accounts for each year. The websites for these documents are as follows:

2004-05

www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0506/hc06/0668/0668.asp

2005-06

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_063170

2006-07

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081317

2007-08

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_089421

2008-09

www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0809/hc04/0436/0436.asp

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made to enable students to undertake work experience in his Department; and by what means members of the public may obtain information about work experience in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Phil Hope: The Department has committed to five places on the New Graduate Internships Programme announced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills earlier this year.

The Department has placed nine students on the Cabinet Office's Ethnic Minority Summer Development Programme this summer. This offers training placements in Government Departments to high calibre candidates from black and ethnic minority backgrounds or those with disabilities, with the aim of increasing representation from those groups in the Fast Stream and Senior Civil Service.

The Department also regularly takes on one-year placement students and summer students within the analytical community.

In addition, some directorates arrange work experience placements locally. As this information is not recorded centrally, it would incur disproportionate costs to collect all the information requested.

Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of the expenditure of each primary care trust was spent on *(a)* all services relating to diabetes and *(b)* campaigns to increase awareness of diabetes in the latest year for which information is available. [illegible]

Ann Keen: Estimates of primary care trusts' (PCTs) expenditure on diabetes are available from the programme budget returns.

A table which shows the estimated PCT reported expenditure on diabetes for 2007-08 in England has been placed in the Library. It should be noted that these figures do not include prevention expenditure or General Medical Services/Primary Medical services expenditure.

It is not possible to identify PCT expenditure on campaigns to raise awareness of diabetes.

General Practitioners: Training

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted funding to upgrade to become training practices in each strategic health authority area; how much has been granted to each successful surgery; and what assessment has been made of the effect of the length of implementation timescales on the (A) number and (B) quality of applications. [illegible]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of general practitioner (GP) surgeries that applied for funding and the amount awarded to each practice is not available centrally.

More than 800 GP practices have been granted funding to improve and extend training facilities, significantly more than 600 envisaged at the outset of the programme.

Haemophilia

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether tissue or blood samples taken from UK haemophiliacs, and held as library samples, have been tested for the presence of diseases in the last three years without disclosure to the patients concerned; and if he will make a statement. [292346]

Ann Keen: The Department is not aware of any cases where samples from United Kingdom haemophiliacs have been tested without appropriate consent being given.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve access to angioplasty services in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Lancaster. [292374]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to plan, develop and improve health services according to the health care needs of their local populations. PCTs in Cumbria and Lancashire work closely with the Cumbria and Lancashire Cardiac Network to improve the quality of care for those affected by coronary heart disease. This is monitored by the PCTs and the North West strategic health authority in its role of overseeing performance.

Heroin: Clinical Trials

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology his Department used to calculate the average cost per patient of its clinical trials of medicalised heroin injections; how many patients undergoing the trials had a previous criminal record including a custodial sentence; how many patients were under the age of 30; and how many patients did not complete the trial. [292043]

Ann Keen: The results of the Randomised Injectable Opioid Treatment Trial are currently being written up by the National Addiction Centre which led this research. Once the report is published, a copy will be placed in the Library.

Home Care Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much he expects his Department's proposals to give 350,000 people free personal home care to cost per year; from which budgets he expects the money to be drawn; how much is to be drawn from each budget; and what consequential reductions he expects to be made in other programmes funded from such budgets; [292399]

(2) what methodology he has used to define highest need in his proposals to give 350,000 people with the highest needs free personal home care; how he has

calculated that there are 350,000 people in need of this level of care; what estimate he has made of the average amount to be spent on each person per week under the proposals; how many hours of care each will receive on average per week; and whether he has included in the 350,000 anyone who presently receives any proportion of their home care free of charge. [292542]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has announced that the funding for the first full year would be £670 million. We will be working with stakeholders over the coming months and further clarity on the scope of the proposals will be published in due course. The money for this policy will be met from reprioritised central budgets and we will be working with stakeholders to make sure other services are not affected. We will need to ensure legislation is brought into force to define what high needs will be covered by this announcement in time for its commencement in October 2010.

Hospital Wards: Closures

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital trusts in London have closed in-patient wards in the last 12 months. [292445]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: These data are not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Construction

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects to be spent on each hospital building programme in each of the next five financial years. [292531]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The public capital budget for the next financial year 2010-11 is £4,822 million (including Personal Social Services). However, full details of the capital expenditure programme for 2010-11 have not yet been finalised, which includes expenditure on public capital funded hospital building schemes.

Budgets for 2011-12 to 2013-14 will be decided as part of the next spending review.

The estimated capital expenditure arising from Private Finance Initiative hospital build schemes already under construction over the next five financial years is shown in table 1.

The capital values of public capital funded hospital build schemes over £10 million under construction (for which information is held centrally) and which will not complete until 1 April 2010 or later are shown in table 2.

Table 1: Private finance schemes under construction (plus the £418 million North Bristol NHS trust scheme)

			Estimated capital expenditure (£ million)				
Trust	*Description*	*Estimated completion date*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Tameside NHS Hospital Foundation Trust	Integration of services onto one site	Q4 2010	25	—	—	—	—
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	Reconfiguration of Acute Hospital services	Q2 2010	12	—	—	—	—
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	Modernisation of Acute Services, including DTC, in Chelmsford	Q3 2010	26	—	—	—	—
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	New build and refurbishment at Hope Hospital Salford	Q1 2011	53	—	—	—	—
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	Modernisation and reconfiguration from four sites to two at Pembury and Maidstone	Q4 2010	82	—	—	—	—
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Reconfiguration of Acute Hospital services	Q1 2012	71	71	—	—	—
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	Rationalisation from two main sites to one at Pinderfields Hospital. Small Unit at Pontefract	Q2 2010	29	—	—	—	—
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	Major new build and reconfiguration at University Hospital site	Q4 2012	67	68	51	—	—
Barts and the London NHS Trust	Acute site rationalisation	Q4 2013	130	130	130	97	—
North Bristol NHS Trust	Relocation of acute services onto single site at Southmead	Q1 2014	105	105	105	105	—

Table 2: Public capital funded hospital build schemes

Trust	*Description*	*Estimated completion date*	*Estimated capital cost (£ million)*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	Maternity, Urgent Treatment Centre, Sexual Health, General Practice and Outpatients	Q2 2010	10
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	Making it Better (Making it Better) Maternity and Paediatrics	Q3 2011	21
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Moseley Hall Hospital (Mental Hall Development)	Q4 2010	14

Table 2: Public capital funded hospital build schemes

Trust	*Description*	*Estimated completion date*	*Estimated capital cost (£ million)*
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Phase 6 Development—New Surgical Unit	Q2 2010	34
Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Oak Road Development—New Patient Treatment Centre	Q4 2010	19
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	Women's and Newborn's Unit BGH	Q2 2010	25
Eastern And Coastal Kent PCT	King's Avenue Development—New Health Centre	Q2 2011	[illegible]
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Women's Services Redevelopment	Q4 2010	23
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	'A' Wards Redevelopment and Associated Works	Q1 2011	13
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	New Women and Children's Unit	Q1 2011	16
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Clinical Services Reconfiguration project	Q4 2010	24
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	Mental Health Refurbishment 2012 Vision	Q4 2012	25
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	Maternity and Newborn Development	Q3 2011	18
North East London NHS Foundation Trust	Site Rationalisation	Q1 2011	17
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	High Secure Learning Disability Unit for Men	Q2 2010	35
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	Renal Transplant and Medicine	Q1 2011	22
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	Women's and Children's development	Q2 2010	29
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	Ambulatory Radiotherapy Centre	Q2 2010	16
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust	Low Secure Unit	Q1 2011	11
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	Portsmouth City Teaching, St. Mary's Campus	Q4 2011	19
Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Modernisation of Rotherham Mental Health Services	Q4 2011	17
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	Bracknell Spoke	Q2 2010	12
Somerset PCT	Refurbishment and new build of Community Hospital—South Petherton	Q1 2011	13
Somerset PCT	Re-provision of Minehead Community Hospital	Q4 2010	16
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	Oncology Project	Q3 2011	23
Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	Modernisation of Suffolk Mental Health Services	Q4 2010	22
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Institute of Transplant	Q2 2011	24
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	Wythenshawe Maternity Unit	Q4 2011	12
Worcestershire PCT	Malvern Community Hospital	Q4 2010	134

Learning Disability

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much of the £175 million fund to build new homes in the community for people with learning disabilities has been spent in each year since the fund was established; [291931]

(2) with reference to his Department's press release of 9 August 2007, Opening the door to a new life for people with learning disabilities, what recent estimate he has made of the number of people still resident on NHS campuses. [291884]

Phil Hope: The Government are making good progress towards its commitment to close by 2010 national health service residential accommodation (campuses) for people with learning disabilities.

The NHS Information Centre undertake a twice yearly data collection of campus numbers in April and October and figures for April 2009 are currently being analysed. In August 2007, we estimated that there were around 2,100 people living in NHS campuses and by April 2009, there were around 1,000.

The Department invited primary care trusts to bid for capital from the £175 million fund in three stages and expenditure has been as follows:

	£ million
Stage 1—2007-08	5
Stage 2—2008-09	43
Stage 3—2009-10	52

Bids have also been made for 2010-11 and £15 million has been committed.

A total of £115 million has been spent or committed.

Midwives: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent midwives the NHS employed in each strategic health authority area in each year since 2005. [291936]

Ann Keen: The number of full-time equivalent midwives in each strategic health authority area in each year since 2005 is set out in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

				Full-time equivalent
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	18,949	18,862	19,298	19,639
North East strategic health authority area	1,011	1,003	1,025	1,063
North West strategic health authority area	3,094	3,138	3,111	3,032
Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority area	2,047	1,906	1,942	1,947
East Midlands strategic health authority area	1,310	1,294	1,322	1,351
West Midlands strategic health authority area	2,123	2,082	2,171	2,177
East of England strategic health authority area	1,725	1,742	1,806	1,801
London strategic health authority area	3,326	3,442	3,499	3,751
South East Coast strategic health authority area	1,320	1,325	1,382	1,413
South Central strategic health authority area	1,187	1,145	1,233	1,301
South West strategic health authority area	1,806	1,774	1,786	1,803

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Source:
The Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Disorder

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure proper and effective NHS treatment for those diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity. [292437]

Ann Keen: The provision of services for investigation and treatment of allergy is decided locally by the national health service depending on need. The Department expects general practitioners to exercise their clinical judgment to decide appropriate specialist referrals for investigation of particular symptoms which may be due to allergy.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls NHS Direct has received in each week since 7 May 2009; and how long on average it took for such calls to be answered in each such week. [291493]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Week ending	*Calls received*	*Calls answered*	*Average answered delay (seconds)*
9 May 2009	55,125	40,606	30.52
16 May 2009	128,474	120,351	18.44
23 May 2009	119,386	111,942	23.14
30 May 2009	117,332	108,687	26.33
6 June 2009	107,345	97,438	33.73
13 June 2009	109,738	99,925	29.26
20 June 2009	105,460	92,304	53.85
27 June 2009	115,408	93,399	94.45
4 July 2009	163,429	98,735	284.83
11 July 2009	186,058	92,106	473.43
18 July 2009	201,766	84,342	463.79
25 July 2009	176,382	88,423	436.67
1 August 2009	127,184	90,923	126.76
8 August 2009	113,442	95,401	83.27
15 August 2009	112,576	99,104	58.60
22 August 2009	104,152	94,073	45.22
29 August 2009	103,014	95,561	31.56
5 September 2009	109,577	99,218	41.39
12 September 2009	99,494	89,836	40.25
Total	2,335,342	1,810,534	—

Note:
It should be noted that this information only refers to calls made to 0845 46 47, and not any other services provided by NHS Direct.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* was spent in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09 and *(b)* is planned to be spent in (A) 2009-10, (B) 2010-11 and (C) 2011-12 on the (1) recruitment processes, (2) better handling of complaints, (3) strengthening clinical governance, (4) information for monitoring, (5) boundary transgressions and special issues in mental health services, (6) revalidation of healthcare professionals, (7) the national clinical advisory group, (8) remediation and rehabilitation, (9) independent adjudication, (10) General Medical Council affiliates, (11) medical training and (12) language testing strand of the safeguarding patients and trust, assurance and safety policy. [287505]

Phil Hope: For 2007 to present, recruitment processes, strengthening clinical governance, information for monitoring, boundary transgressions and special issues in mental health services and remediation and rehabilitation spending are matters for local determination and the information is not held centrally.

For better handling of complaints, the Department collects centrally the number of national health service complaints received, but does not collect data on the costs of handling those complaints.

The last year for which data are available (2007-08), show 87,080 complaints in Hospital and Community Health Services and 45,942 in general practice (including dental).

The approach to revalidation of Health Care professionals is still under development.

The following are amounts spent on preparatory work:

2007-08: £2,503,137

2008-09: £4,284,582

2009-10 (to end of august): £1,950,416.

The National Clinical Audit Advisory Group is an advisory body that prioritises spending on national clinical audits. Audits are funded by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP), which was established in 2008.

In 2008-09 HQIP received £6.3 million from the Department to support the management, development and promotion of clinical audit. The projected budget for this in 2009-10 is £7.0 million.

In respect of Independent adjudication the following are amounts spent on preparatory work for establishing the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator:

2007-08: nil

2008-09: £109,171

2009-10 (to end of August): £114,271.

For General Medical Council Affiliates, the only expenditure so far is the funding of two pilots in London and Yorkshire and Humberside:

2007-08: £400,000

2008-09: £100,000

2009-10 (to end of August): £90,000.

In respect of medical training, there have been no significant costs or expenditure for the Department or the NHS arising from the White Paper recommendations.

For language, testing the policy position is still being clarified in light of European Union directives; therefore, there have been no costs or planned costs.

On future spending, the planned spending for 2010-11 has not yet been agreed and will be considered as part of the standard departmental business planning exercise.

As for 2011-2012, future years are subject to the next spending review, the timetable of which is not yet known.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage change in *(a)* NHS real terms expenditure and *(b)* finished consultant episodes has been since 1997. [292249]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: From 1997-98 to 2007-08 total real terms expenditure in the national health service increased by 90 per cent. (6 per cent. p.a.) and finished consultant episodes increased by 39 per cent. (3 per cent. p.a.).

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS doctors, *(b)* NHS nurses, *(c)* NHS dentists and *(d)* GPs have been employed in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 2007. [292075]

Phil Hope: The number of national health service doctors, nurses, general practitioners (GPs) and dentists is given in the following table. The numbers quoted cover England only. Copies of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09" Report and Annex have been placed in the Library.

NHS staff in England, the North East Strategic Health Authority area and each specified organisation and by each specified staff group as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2007				2008			
	All GPs[1]	*Hospital and community health care staff (HCHS) doctors and dentists*[2]	*Qualified nursing staff*[3]	*Number of dentists 2007-08*	*All GPs*[1]	*(HCHS) doctors and dentists*[2]	*Qualified nursing staff*[3]	*Number of dentists 2008-09*
England	36,420	91,790	399,597	20,815	37,720	95,942	408,160	21,343
Of which								
North East Strategic Health Authority area	1,974	5,145	23,419	1,049	2,009	5,367	24,036	1,108
Of which								
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	—	288	1,048	—	—	309	1,095	—
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	—	163	550	—	—	173	540	—
South Tyneside Primary Care Trust	107	9	307	94	109	8	297	104

Notes:

[1] All GPs include GP providers, other GPs, GP registrars and GP retainers.

[2] Excludes hospital practitioners and clinical assistants in headcount, most of these also work as a GP.

[3] Includes all HCHS qualified nursing and midwifery staff and GP practice nurses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Non-Medical Workforce Census. All rights reserved. This work remains the sole and exclusive property of The Information Centre and may only be reproduced where there is explicit reference to the ownership of The Information Centre.

NHS: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health authorities do not pay a salary to their board members. [291979]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

There are nationally agreed rates for the remuneration of board members of the 10 strategic health authorities. The authorities' boards are made up of non-executive board members, who receive remuneration at set rates agreed by the Department, and executive members who are paid under the Department's Pay Framework for Very Senior Managers.

The Pay Framework for Very Senior Managers also applies to the executive board members of special health authorities, primary care trusts and ambulance trusts, issued by the Department. A copy has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph C.76, page 242 of Budget 2009, if he will place in the Library a copy of the actuarial advice he received on the NHS pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [289103]

Phil Hope: The net expenditure projections for the NHS Pension Scheme, used to build up the financial statement and the Budget report, reflect assumptions set by NHS Pensions after taking into account comments from their actuarial advisers, the Government Actuary's Department. The actuarial assumptions for the scheme can be found in the latest full actuarial valuation of the scheme which was published in December 2007. A copy of the valuation has been placed in the Library.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of *(a)* the percentage of prescriptions dispensed which have incurred charges and *(b)* the amount paid in prescription charges in each of the last 12 months. [291576]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: NHS Prescription Services (NHSPS) are responsible for the reimbursement and remuneration of dispensing contractors in England on behalf of the Department. The NHSPS captures information from prescription items submitted by dispensing contractors for reimbursement and remuneration purposes.

The following table provides an estimate of prescription charges for items written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, during the latest available 12 month period, August 2008 to July 2009.

	Percentage of prescription items where prescription charges were paid at the point of dispensing[1]	*Total prescription charges paid (£000)*[2,3]
August 2008	6.6	37,622
September 2008	6.6	39,835
October 2008	6.1	42,101
November 2008	6.3	37,781
December 2008	6.5	41,961
January 2009	6.4	39,685
February 2009	6.3	36,280
March 2009	6.3	41,777
April 2009	6.1	38,864
May 2009	6.1	37,333
June 2009	6.0	39,419
July 2009	5.9	40,552
Total	6.3	473,250

[1] This excludes items dispensed against pre payment certificates (PPCs) as it is not possible to extract this information from other items dispensed where a patient is exempt from the prescription charge.

[2] Total income from prescriptions dispensed with a charge at the point of dispensing and from PPC sales. Refunds against both of these sources of income have been subtracted from the reported total income.

[3] The 'total prescription charges paid' is an estimate as prescription charge refunds included in the calculation of this total may relate to a previous month to that in which the prescription charge was paid. NHSPS payment information captured at the time of processing is not amended as a result of the refund process.

Source:

PD1 report available on the NHS Prescriptions Services website at:
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/947.aspx
and NHS Help With Health Costs Pre-payment Certificate database.

Primary Care Trusts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had on mergers of primary care trusts. [292377]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been no recent discussions. Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

Social Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for a public consultation on the proposals in the Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper to use attendance allowance and other disability benefits to fund social care; and if he will make a statement. [292101]

Phil Hope: We are currently consulting on all of the options considered within the Green Paper, in our Big Care Debate. The Green Paper consultation will run until 13 November this year. More information about the Big Care Debate is available on our dedicated website at:

www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk

Tuberculosis: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paediatric tuberculosis cases have been notified in England in the last five years. [292375]

Ann Keen: The data on the number of paediatric tuberculosis cases in England for 2003-2007 are provided in the following table:

	Number of cases
2003	376
2004	445
2005	493
2006	422
2007	534

Note:

Paediatric cases are defined as those aged under 16 years.

Source:

Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance, Health Protection Agency

Viral Diseases: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many antiviral collection points have been provided in each primary care trust area; and how many courses of antivirals have been distributed in each primary care trust area through such points to date; [286319]

(2) with reference to the Statement of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 583-5, on swine flu, if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of all antiviral collection points in each primary care trust. [291855]

Gillian Merron: Data on the number of antiviral collection points (ACPs) in each primary care trust (PCT) were made available to all Members following the launch of the National Pandemic Flu Service on 23

July 2009. However, this list changes in response to local demand and the list as at 30 September 2009 has been placed in the Library.

In each PCT area, or where demand from swine flu has been very modest across a number of PCTs, they have been asked to mobilise at least one ACP locally. More have been opened to respond to the level of demand from patients and the public for rapid access to antivirals.

Cumulatively from 23 July to 29 September 2009 around 590,000 antivirals have been collected. The breakdown by PCT has been placed in the Library.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2165W, on motor neurone disease: wheelchairs, when he expects the Care Services Efficiency Programme to report on a new model for the delivery of community equipment and wheelchair services. [292336]

Phil Hope: The Care Services Efficiency Delivery Programme report was sent to departmental officials in February 2008 and the new retail model for community equipment has been shared with local authorities and health organizations.

We have provided assistance to Whizz-Kidz to support the development of a partnership between them and NHS London, in conjunction with primary care trusts and local authorities, to improve joint commissioning and the provision of wheelchairs for children and young adults across London. The resulting lessons and learning from the pan-London project are providing additional information to inform departmental discussions about future wheelchair services.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Influenza

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether civil servants will have priority access to antiviral drugs in the event of an influenza pandemic. [290209]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Civil servants have not been given priority access to antivirals during the swine flu outbreak. We have sufficient stocks of antivirals for anyone reporting symptoms to receive treatment following an assessment through the National Pandemic Flu Service, or general practitioner practices if they have underlying health conditions.

Death

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths as a result of *(a)* heat-related and *(b)* cold-related factors there have been in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [292446]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths as a result of *(a)* heat-related and *(b)* cold-related factors there have been in England and Wales in each of the last five years. (292446)

There are no official definitions of 'heat-related' and 'cold-related' deaths. Estimates of the excess deaths resulting from a summer heat wave are calculated only when temperatures remain abnormally high over a sustained period. The most severe heat wave of recent times occurred in August 2003. During July 2006, there were also several days when heat wave threshold temperatures were reached in one or more regions. Table 1 provides the number of excess deaths during these hot periods.

Estimates of excess winter deaths are calculated annually, and are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). It is not possible to say whether these deaths were cold-related. Table 2 provides the number of excess winter deaths that occurred in England and Wales from 2003-04 to 2007-08 (the latest figures available).

Table 1: Excess mortality during periods when temperatures were above heat wave threshold in one or more regions, England and Wales,2003-07[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	Number of excess deaths (persons)	*Percentage increase in mortality above baseline (%)*
4 to 13 August 2003[1, 2]	2,139	16
1 to 7 July 2006[3, 4]	n/e	0
16 to 28 July 2006[3, 4]	680	4

n/e = No excess

[1] Final data based on deaths occurring each day in this period.

[2] Excess mortality was calculated as observed daily deaths in 2003 minus the baseline (average 1998 to 2002) expected mortality over the same time period.

[3] Estimated data based on deaths occurring each day in this period.

[4] Excess mortality was calculated as observed daily deaths in 2006 minus baseline (average 2001 to 2005) expected mortality over the same time period.

[5] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

Table 2. Excess winter deaths, England and Wales, 2003-04 to 2007-08[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Number
2003-04	23,450
2004-05	31,640
2005-06	25,270
2006-07	23,740
2007-08	25,300

[1] Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July).

[2] Figures are based on deaths occurring in each month.

[3] Figures for 2003-04 to 2006-07 are final, figures for 2007-08 are provisional. Final figures are rounded to the nearest 10, provisional figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

[4] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she plans to publish a revised list of ministerial responsibilities; and what the reasons are for the time taken to prepare the revised list. [292124]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The revised list of ministerial responsibilities, which provides a detailed breakdown of individual ministerial portfolios, will be published on 14 October 2009. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House and the Vote Office. In addition, hard copies will be sent to all MPs.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* female and *(b)* male employees in the Bolton North East constituency receive wages at the national minimum rate. [291470]

Angela E. Smith: This information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated September 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) female and (b) male employees in the Bolton North East constituency receive wages at the national minimum rate. (291470)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage are not available from the Office for National Statistics. Estimates for the number of employee jobs paid below the national wage are available, but only for all employee jobs by Government Office Region, which is the lowest geographical breakdown published by ONS. These estimates exclude the self employed. I attach a table showing the number of all employee jobs earning less than the national minimum wage for the North West Government Office Region.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Estimates of employee jobs paid below the National Minimum Wage by North West Government Office Region in 2008

	2008	
Government Office Region	*Thousand*	*Percentage*
North West (including Merseyside)	*27	*1.0

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key:
CV<=5 per cent.
* CV>5 per cent. and <=10 per cent.
** CV>10 per cent. and <=20 per cent.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics. 2008

Suicide

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death there were in each (1) county of England and Wales in each quarter in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009 to date; [292322]

(2) 10 year age cohort in England and Wales in each quarter in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009 to date. [292323]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking

1) how many deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death there were in each quarter in (a) 2006, (b) 2007, (c) 2008 and (d) 2009 to date, in each county in England and Wales. (292322)

2) how many deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death there were in each 10 year age cohort in each quarter in (a) 2006, (b) 2007, (c) 2008 and (d) 2009 to date in England and Wales. (292323)

Table 1 attached provides the number of deaths occurring in each calendar quarter in 2006 and 2007, where suicide was the underlying cause of death, for each county in England. Unitary authorities in England are not included in areas covered by counties, and there are no counties in Wales. Total figures for the 56 unitary authorities within England and the 22 unitary authorities in Wales are included at the end of Table 1.

Table 2 attached provides the number of deaths occurring in each calendar quarter in 2006 and 2007, where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by 10-year age groups, in England and Wales.

Death occurrence figures for 2008 and 2009 are not yet available in this form.

Table 1: Number of deaths occurring in each calendar quarter, where suicide was the underlying cause of death, counties in England, 2006-07[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

Deaths (persons)

	2006				2007			
	Jan-Mar	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sept*	*Oct-Dec*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sept*	*Oct-Dec*
Area								
England	1,034	1,004	992	898	973	1,082	897	739
North East								
Tyne and Wear (Met County)	27	18	25	17	23	20	22	14
North West								
Cumbria	13	15	12	19	12	7	10	5
Greater Manchester (Met County)	54	66	64	45	52	59	59	45
Lancashire	21	19	20	24	31	30	28	21
Merseyside (Met County)	30	34	32	23	21	31	29	23
Yorkshire and The Humber								
North Yorkshire	13	13	9	9	9	14	7	16
South Yorkshire (Met County)	26	33	28	22	38	29	21	21

Table 1: Number of deaths occurring in each calendar quarter, where suicide was the underlying cause of death, counties in England, 2006-07[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

Deaths (persons)

	2006				*2007*			
	Jan-Mar	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sept*	*Oct-Dec*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sept*	*Oct-Dec*
West Yorkshire (Met County)	46	37	33	36	42	38	53	37
East Midlands								
Derbyshire	11	11	12	11	14	13	7	11
Leicestershire	14	12	7	13	8	4	7	4
Lincolnshire	21	16	14	20	15	18	9	19
Northamptonshire	15	12	19	7	11	16	11	5
Nottinghamshire	20	14	17	19	14	10	9	20
West Midlands								
Staffordshire	11	7	15	10	16	23	15	13
Warwickshire	7	6	12	4	10	10	12	2
West Midlands (Met County)	53	48	46	34	44	56	43	25
Worcestershire	12	12	8	12	8	10	10	11
East of England								
Cambridgeshire	10	12	11	10	14	13	15	14
Essex	20	25	19	15	28	29	23	11
Hertfordshire	11	18	11	16	15	15	20	11
Norfolk	19	11	16	11	16	13	10	24
Suffolk	13	14	15	12	18	19	21	11
London								
Greater London	149	156	130	112	115	162	120	95
South East								
Buckinghamshire	4	7	8	8	4	12	8	3
East Sussex	14	14	10	9	11	11	8	8
Hampshire	21	10	23	21	21	30	16	16
Kent	33	24	36	24	34	36	19	15
Oxfordshire	12	13	11	12	14	6	13	8
Surrey	19	27	18	11	18	19	15	15
West Sussex	9	19	14	21	18	1	11	18
South West								
Devon	11	15	23	18	15	11	11	6
Dorset	12	6	8	6	5	9	10	11
Gloucestershire	20	9	10	12	16	8	7	5
Somerset	15	12	8	10	10	8	6	7
Unitary Authorities	248	239	248	245	233	286	212	167
Wales	73	59	69	67	67	64	70	53

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending).

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Over the period 2006-07, three suicides did not have a 'month of death' recorded at death registration, and were therefore not included.

[4] Based on boundaries as of 1 April 2009, following local government reorganisation.

[5] Unitary authorities in England are not included in areas covered by counties. Therefore, not all areas within England are included in a county, and there are no counties in Wales.

[6] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar quarter.

Table 2: Number of deaths occurring in each calendar quarter where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by age group, England and Wales, 2006-07[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Deaths (persons)

	2006				*2007*			
Age group	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*
15-24	92	94	80	107	107	90	85	61
25-34	160	161	188	167	176	189	178	129
35-44	273	242	270	234	242	273	233	187
45-54	226	214	218	169	206	242	204	157
55-64	182	169	154	134	156	185	120	139

Table 2: Number of deaths occurring in each calendar quarter where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by age group, England and Wales, 2006-07[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Deaths (persons)

	2006				2007			
Age group	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*
65-74	92	98	77	74	72	81	66	63
75-84	59	65	58	62	65	58	61	51
85+	28	28	24	22	24	34	24	13

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending).

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Over the period 2006-07, three suicides did not have a 'month of death' recorded at death registration, and were therefore not included.

[4] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar quarter.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death there were in England and Wales in each quarter in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009 by profession. [292324]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death there were in each quarter in (a) 2006, (b) 2007, (c) 2008 and (d) 2009 by profession in England and Wales. (292324)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, for each calendar quarter in 2006 and 2007, by occupational group. Due to the small numbers of suicides in individual occupations, figures are given for occupational groups, which are defined in the Standard Occupational Classification 2000[1]. These figures do not include suicides at ages 75 and over (346 in 2006 and 328 in 2007) as occupational information is not available from death registrations for this age group, or suicides for which occupation was not recorded for other reasons (984 in 2006 and 941 in 2007).

Figures for 2008 and 2009 are not yet available in this form.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2000) Standard Occupational Classification 2000 Volume I. Structure and description of unit groups. The Stationery Office: London Available online at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/classifications/current/SOC2000/index.html

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death by occupational group by quarter, England and Wales 2006-07[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]

Deaths (persons)

	2006				2007			
	Jan-Mar	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*
Occupational groups								
Corporate managers	29	31	41	29	25	32	37	15
Managers and proprietors in agriculture and services	42	33	33	35	33	29	21	24
Science and technology professionals	14	21	20	13	21	17	11	21
Health professionals	12	12	7	4	5	4	7	4
Teaching and research professionals	16	26	19	17	22	22	23	12
Business and public service professionals	6	15	16	17	11	14	12	11
Science and technology associate professionals	21	10	13	6	10	6	8	18
Health and social welfare associate professionals	19	19	19	20	17	24	9	13
Protective service occupations	17	8	11	12	15	12	9	8
Culture, media and sports occupations	17	23	19	20	16	15	15	13
Business and public service associate professionals	20	26	22	17	22	29	18	17
Administrative occupations	36	35	46	40	41	44	29	36
Secretarial and related occupations	12	9	10	17	18	18	13	13
Skilled agricultural trades	22	21	19	18	24	23	21	12
Skilled metal and electrical trades	69	36	41	51	57	48	57	37
Skilled construction and building trades	85	69	69	66	84	94	82	55
Textiles, printing and other skilled trades	21	27	20	19	21	25	19	21
Caring personal service occupations	26	27	35	28	20	31	20	19
Leisure and other personal service occupations	14	19	15	12	16	13	14	6
Sales and customer services occupations	36	31	24	21	30	43	24	23
Process, plant and machine operatives	49	35	46	45	43	49	43	31
Transport and mobile machine drivers and operatives	62	54	55	54	48	55	46	45
Elementary trades, plant and storage related occupations	71	70	76	71	54	72	78	53
Elementary administration and service occupations	53	64	55	38	45	68	61	33

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending).

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Over the period 2006-07, three suicides did not have a 'month of death' recorded at death registration, and were therefore not included.

[4] The sub-major groupings of the Standard Occupation Classification 2000 have been used in this analysis. Sales Occupations and Customer Services Occupations have been amalgamated to avoid disclosure due to small numbers.

[5] Occupation is not coded at death for individuals over the age of 74, thus suicides for individuals over the age of 74 are not included.

[6] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar quarter.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what monitoring his Department is undertaking of the pace of delivery of the broadband universal service commitment. [292401]

Mr. Timms: The delivery of the universal service commitment (USC) will be carried out by the Network Design and Procurement Company. We hope to appoint the chief executive of this company in the autumn, who will then work to begin delivery as soon as possible. Once established, the Government will ensure appropriate monitoring of delivery, primarily through a steering board which the company will report to.

Broadband: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which rural areas of the UK have exchanges that are not broadband-enabled. [291984]

Mr. Timms: All of BT's exchanges are broadband enabled (DSL). Recent research published by the independent regulator Ofcom (Communications Market Report, August 2009) shows that 99.92 per cent. of households in rural UK are linked to a broadband enabled exchange. However, some households will be unable to receive broadband for various network reasons, for example the distance of the household from the exchange.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what monitoring his Department carries out of bandwidth speeds available in rural areas. [292402]

Mr. Timms: The Department does not currently carry out any monitoring of bandwidth speeds available in rural areas. However, the independent telecommunications regulator, Ofcom, have published the broadband speed Code of Practice which all major internet service providers have signed up to, and have also recently published research on broadband speeds. The Code of Practice can be found at

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/media/features/bbcode.

The broadband speed research can be found at

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/media/features/broadbandspeedsjy.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what barriers he has identified in the delivery of the broadband Universal Service Commitment to rural areas. [292403]

Mr. Timms: The proposed arms-length body, the Network and Design and Procurement Company, will be responsible for identifying any barriers to the delivery of the universal service commitment across the UK, on behalf of Government. We hope to appoint a chief executive of this body in the autumn, and work will begin on the analysis later in the year.

Business Link

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how long it took on average for Business Link to carry out a health check from the original business enquiry in the latest period for which figures are available. [291257]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The figures refer to the lead time (the time lapse between original inquiry and the health check) for businesses requesting a health check on 26 August. Typically, across all regions an initial telephone conversation will result in those identified as being urgent cases being offered an early meeting with an adviser.

These data indicate that urgent cases are likely to be visited within a week with less urgent cases taking anything up to 17 calendar days on average, albeit this is dependent on the level of demand and client availability. The average lead time is likely to be less than 10 days across the RDA network.

RDA	*Average length of time it takes Business Link to carry out a health check from the original business inquiry (as at 26 August 2009)*
AWM	The health checks are categorised at different levels of Intensive Assistance as follows; Level 2—The average number of calendar days to deliver a level 2 Intensive Assist (which is the referral for a Business Account Manager) is 8.6 days since 1 April 2009. Level 3—The average number of calendar days to deliver a Level 3 Intensive Assist (which is the referral for an Adviser) is 16.5 days. Note: Some of the time lags are dependent upon client availability as much as adviser availability.
EEDA	24 hours for call back. Up to five working days for a visit but will respond sooner if urgent.
EMDA	Adviser appointment lead times remain at an average of eight calendar days. Urgent cases are prioritised.
LDA	Adviser appointment lead time continues at 10 working days, with a triage process involving telephone diagnostics and local adviser surgeries for more urgent needs.
NWDA	There is a significant variance in this depending on the availability of the customer to meet and the complexity of the Action Plan subsequently developed. We provide contact between same day and up to two working days on average. The Health Check activity meeting may then be scheduled from within 48 hours or up to two weeks ahead.
ONE	Lead times (mean average for stated time period): 7 August 2009 to 26 August 2009—7.6 calendar days
SEEDA	Across the region's six Business Link Providers, the average adviser lead-time is seven working days, with urgent requests met in one-two working days whenever possible.
SWRDA	For urgent cases, a fast track route is available to speak to an adviser directly on the same day and have an appointment within one week maximum. Average lead-times vary from 7.5 calendar days in the north and east zones of the region to 17 calendar days in the southern zone.

RDA	*Average length of time it takes Business Link to carry out a health check from the original business inquiry (as at 26 August 2009)*
YF	Initial pre-filtering takes place at the time that the inquiry is taken. Urgent requests are dealt with within 24 hours and a health check can often be done within two-three working days of the initial inquiry being made. A typical enquiry will normally be responded to within 48 hours and an appointment made that will be at the customer's earliest convenience. This would normally be within a week to 10 working days.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 430W, on business: Government assistance, which banks are participating in the Working Capital Scheme; how many businesses had received additional funds from each such bank on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the monetary value was of the additional capital which had been made available under the scheme on that date. [289898]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 50 per cent. guarantees have been agreed on loan portfolios from Royal Bank of Scotland plc (RBS), National Westminster Bank plc (NatWest), and Lloyds TSB Bank plc and Lloyds TSB Scotland plc (Lloyds Banking Group) in respect of portfolios of loans that will enable RBS, NatWest and Lloyds Banking Group to make additional lending to UK companies.

Information on the number of businesses receiving new loans is not available. £2 billion of guarantees have been provided to banks under the Working Capital Scheme to free up regulatory capital for new lending to UK companies.

As a result of action by the Government and the regulatory authorities leading to improvements in capital markets since the introduction of the WCS, the Government have been able to allocate resource provision for the WCS to other measures to support businesses.

Business: Insurance

Mr. George Osborne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many policies have been written under the Trade Credit Insurance scheme; and what the monetary value is of the cover provided. [291222]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: As of 4 September this Government 'top-up' scheme has written 64 policies to a value of £10,435,865 in cases where commercial credit insurers have reduced cover. This reflects the targeted nature of the scheme which was designed to provide breathing space for those firms who have suffered a reduction in their credit insurance as a result of the current economic climate. It is part of the Real Help Now package of measures, and has provided targeted, temporary assistance to give companies that require time to talk to their banks and buyers, and then adjust their business models to respond to the current climate, the time to do so. Many businesses have successfully found ways to reduce their need for trade credit insurance, including developing closer relationships with their buyers, which is one of the policy objectives of the scheme.

Business: Public Sector

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the supply2.gov.uk portal in increasing the number of bids by small and medium-sized enterprises for public sector contracts. [288851]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Supply2.gov.uk seeks to increase access to lower value public sector contracts by publishing them in a single location. As an advertising portal, it does not collect data on the number of bids made by SMEs.

A 2007 user survey indicated that 34 per cent. of registrants had bid for a contract on the site. Since then, the number of registered suppliers has risen from around 50,000 to over 163,000, and the number of low-value contracts from below 16,000 to over 47,000. Around 300 new low-value contracts are published on the site every week. As part of the implementation of the Glover recommendations, central Government spend with SMEs will be monitored from this financial year onwards.

Departmental Information Officers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to his Department of employing (a) press officers and (b) other press office staff has been in each year since 1997. [283071]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was created on 5 June. Figures are not available for BIS but are available for the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI).

The total staffing costs for Press Office staff for the former BERR, DIUS and DTI are:

	£
2008-09	
BERR	1,080,000
DIUS	766,000
2007/08	
DTI/BERR	1,261,000
2006/07	
DTI	1,023,000
2005/06	
DTI	992,000
2004/05	
DTI	871,000

Figures for earlier years for the DTI and a breakdown of costs for press officers and non-press officers could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292056]

Mr. McFadden: The number of staff in the Department's predecessor (Department of Trade and Industry) in 1997 is shown within the Civil Service Statistics 1997 link 'Civil Service Statistics 1997' and forms part of the Civil Service statistics archive

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/archived-reports.aspx

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) ceased to exist on 5 June when the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created from the merger of BERR and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

There are a total of 3,618 staff within BIS as at 30 September.

Departmental Reorganisation

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost of *(a)* designing and *(b)* purchasing branded stationery for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was during its existence; how much such stationery remains unused; and what plans he has for that stationery. [279781]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 June 2009]*: For part *(a)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy), the then Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property at the then Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1645-46W.

For part *(b)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Erdington (Mr. Simon), the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Further Education at the then Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills on 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 213W.

Branded stationery is ordered on demand by individual business units. Records are not held on how much was unused at the point of the creation of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS). However all stocks of stationery which featured the DIUS branding were recycled when BIS was created.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of staff in his Department have worked on attachment to institutions of the European Union. [290094]

Mr. McFadden: Secondments to the EU Institutions are a valuable means of building relationships and influencing policy. In recent years, at any given time there have been approximately 12 BIS staff working in the Institutions as Seconded National Experts. In addition, we usually support the participation of at least two members of staff per year in the European Commission's National Experts in Training Programme, which entails six month attachments. An investigation to determine the proportion of staff who have ever worked on attachment to the Institutions would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many members of his Department have been on sick leave for over six months. [290098]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not routinely calculate the number of staff who have been on sick leave for over six months. However, in common with other Whitehall departments we do regularly report our sickness absence. The latest performance report is available at this link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/sicknessabsence

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many working days in the last month were lost owing to sick leave taken by staff of his Department. [290099]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not routinely calculate the number of working days lost owing to sick leave taken by staff in the last month. However, in common with other Whitehall departments we do regularly report our sickness absence. The latest performance report is available at this link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/sicknessabsence

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the cost to the public purse of sickness absences in his Department and its predecessors was in each of the last five years. [290560]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not routinely calculate the cost to the public purse of sickness absences. The Cabinet Office has published previous annual sickness absence reports for the Civil Service (from 2003 to 2007). These can be viewed via sickness absence reports. The latest of these reports was published for the year up to April 2007.

However in common with other Whitehall departments we do regularly report our sickness absence. The latest performance report is available at this link.

http://www.bis.gov.uk/sicknessabsence

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of funds available under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme has *(a)* been lent to businesses, *(b)* is in the process of being lent to businesses and *(c)* remains available for future lending. [291684]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) is a £1 billion loan guarantee scheme delivered through the banks that will enable an additional £1.3 billion of lending to businesses up to end March 2010.

As of 16 September, 5,241 loans have been offered to customers with a total value of £535 million. Of these, 4,132 have been drawn down with a total value of £405 million.

Learning Grid

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of Learning Grid programmes on the teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects in schools; what funding his Department has provided for the Learning Grid in each year since it was founded; and what plans the Government has for the future of the Learning Grid. [292513]

Mr. McFadden: The evaluation report commissioned by the East Midlands Regional Development Agency, received by Government in August, does not directly address the immediate impact of the Learning Grid on the teaching programmes in schools.

The as yet unpublished report concludes that the full extent of programme impacts cannot be accurately gauged until 10-15 years into the future given that one of the key objectives of the programme is to increase the size of the skilled recruitment pool entering into high performance engineering employment.

Set up in 2005 the Learning Grid has received a total of £4 million from BIS and supporting RDAs up to July 2009. Currently there are no further plans to provide additional financial support to the Learning Grid.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Pope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when the Minister for Economic Competitiveness, Small Business and Enterprise will reply to the hon. Member for Hyndburn's letter to her of 6 January 2009. [291633]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My noble Friend, the Minister for Economic Competitiveness, Small Business and Enterprise, responded on 28 July 2009.

Met Office: Reviews

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has met representatives of the Met Office to discuss the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency programme review that the Met Office should introduce private capital in some areas; and if he will make a statement. [289320]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The OEP review process is conducted through extensive consultations and dialogue between the Met Office, Ministry of Defence and the Shareholder Executive on all issues connected with the review, including the potential introduction of private capital. The introduction of private capital was identified as only one of the available options which could help enhance the commercial opportunities available to the Met Office. Ministers are kept informed on the progress on all options.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the Shareholder Executive's review of the Met Office to be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [289394]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There will be a general update around PBR on the progress of the OEP and its individual assets, including the Met Office.

Ministers: Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which training courses were attended by Ministers in his Department or its predecessor in the last 12 months. [290450]

Mr. McFadden: A number of Ministers in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessor departments have received training to assist them in the discharge of their various ministerial responsibilities.

New College Nottingham: Basford Hall

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment the Learning and Skills Council has made of the application from New College Nottingham for approval in principle for a new campus at Basford Hall. [292192]

Kevin Brennan: New College Nottingham submitted their application for an in principal project proposal to the Learning and Skills Council for the development of their existing campus at Basford Hall in November last year.

The Basford Hall project application was reviewed with all other capital projects as part the prioritisation exercise carried out by the LSC based upon rigorous and fair prioritisation criteria agreed with the sector and that built upon Sir Andrew Foster's recommendations. Unfortunately, the Basford Hall project application was not successful in securing funding this spending period.

Police National Computer

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what access his Department has to information stored on the Police National Computer. [290003]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has two, separate, requirements for information held on the Police National Computer (PNC):

(i) Company Law and Insolvency investigations and enforcement:

The Department carries out PNC checks for possible suspects, defendants and witnesses in relation to cases it prosecutes. These cases tend to arise from individual and corporate insolvency proceedings and associated fraud together with a range of other matters arising from the Department's regulatory functions such as Employment Regulation offences.

(ii) Security checks for people who work within BIS:

PNC checks are only carried out on those requiring CTC, (counter terrorist check), SC (security clearance) or DV (developed vetting) clearance. The PNC checks cover spent and unspent criminal convictions.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* UK Financial Investments and *(b)* the management of the Royal Bank of Scotland on its marketing (i) strategy and (ii) agency arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [267780]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* UKFI manages the Government's investments in financial institutions on a commercial basis at arm's length from Government.

Royal Mail

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure his Department has incurred on external advisory fees in relation to the proposed part-privatisation of the Royal Mail to date. [291893]

Mr. McFadden: The estimated expenditure incurred to end September 2009 on legal, accountancy and financial advice to take forward the implementation of the Hooper Review's recommendations (which included work on securing a partner for Royal Mail) was £4.6 million.

Shareholder Executive

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what role the Shareholder Executive has in *(a)* delivering and *(b)* administering (i) the Working Capital scheme, (ii) the Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme, (iii) the Capital for Enterprise Fund and (iv) the Automotive Assistance programme; and if he will make a statement. [289831]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Shareholder Executive has no role in delivering or administering schemes (i), (ii) and (iii). However, the Executive did advise on some organisational and resourcing aspects of delivering the Automotive Assistance programme and continues to give ad hoc advice on individual applications made under that scheme.

It also advised on the design and implementation of the Capital for Enterprise Fund.

Union Modernisation Fund: Publications

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1756W, on the Union Modernisation Fund, if he will place in the Library a copy of the reports certifying claims and expenditure from the Union Modernisation Fund in respect of each additional company listed in the Answer. [292085]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* I am unable to place in the Library any copies of the certifying claims and expenditure from the Union Modernisation Fund in relation to the accountancy companies listed in my previous answer because the reports are prepared for the confidential use of the unions and BIS, and solely for the purpose of verifying the grant claimed.

This condition is set out in the standard terms of engagement agreed between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales used for all the Department's grant-aided projects.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1484-86W, on crime: statistics, how many antisocial behaviour incidents were recorded in 2008-09; [289587]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 74W, on public order offences, what data on antisocial behaviour will be collected as defined by the simplified National Incident Category List from 2009; [289588]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 74W, on public order offences, if he will provide a breakdown of figures for incidents recorded in 2008-09. [289589]

Alan Johnson: The total number of incidents of antisocial behaviour recorded by the 43 police forces in England and Wales as defined within the National Incident Category List (NICL) for 2008-09 was 3,661,498. A detailed breakdown is given in the following tables.

The data are normally used for management information only and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics publications. The data are therefore provisional and may be subject to change.

A decision as to the data on antisocial behaviour incidents as defined by the NICL that will be collected centrally for 2009-10 will be made later this year. As part of the Home Office's work to reduce the data burden on police forces, this data return has been reviewed and the monthly collection discontinued. A single annual return will be implemented, the extent and scope of which has yet to be finalised.

2008-09

	Antisocial behaviour							
	Abandoned vehicles (not stolen or causing an obstruction)	*Animal problems*	*Begging /vagrancy*	*Hoax calls to emergency services*	*Inappropriate use/sale/ possession of fireworks*	*Malicious communications*	*Noise*	*Prostitution related activity*
F01 Avon and Somerset	1,558	2,773	724	4,996	632	2,993	1,578	164
F02 Bedfordshire	2,264	408	249	881	212	1,694	247	177

	2008-09							
	Antisocial behaviour							
	Abandoned vehicles (not stolen or causing an obstruction)	*Animal problems*	*Begging/vagrancy*	*Hoax calls to emergency services*	*Inappropriate use/sale/possession of fireworks*	*Malicious communications*	*Noise*	*Prostitution related activity*
F03 Cambridgeshire	2,985	44	318	708	142	3,079	1,712	164
F04 Cheshire	1,446	1,158	314	801	364	3,980	323	10
F05 City of London	23	21	362	7	0	33	128	3
F06 Cleveland	1,752	1,601	155	2,416	404	4,231	76	107
F07 Cumbria	381	571	68	922	196	1,801	473	11
F08 Derbyshire	3,412	853	168	1,577	279	2,624	1,288	41
F09 Devon and Cornwall	2,463	2,234	847	3,627	352	7,011	545	18
F10 Dorset	2,801	529	1,138	606	264	2,730	1,166	132
F11 Durham	157	1,439	68	4,447	218	4,082	2,428	1
F12 Dyfed Powys	751	1,478	134	1,072	151	2,609	1,516	3
F13 Essex	3,093	2,694	168	2,993	880	3,238	1,644	136
F14 Gloucestershire	1,006	796	174	2,301	188	2,558	1,098	20
F15 Greater Manchester	15,208	815	1,517	10,140	1,643	12,143	809	172
F16 Gwent	1,104	1,331	100	1,601	301	5,348	598	22
F17 Hampshire	4,204	1,315	1,116	2,561	625	8,004	3,008	91
F18 Hertfordshire	5,789	793	288	4,346	430	3,843	3,064	14
F19 Humberside	1,855	836	241	1,373	436	4,080	475	63
F20 Kent	1,068	901	537	2,460	591	6,592	2,022	44
F21 Lancashire	4,827	3,460	852	6,023	1,241	9,070	3,830	174
F22 Leicestershire	3,058	805	269	3,970	314	1,458	661	175
F23 Lincolnshire	999	412	179	917	291	3,187	973	6
F24 Merseyside	2,248	1,867	643	3,160	883	4,183	1,794	111
F25 Metropolitan Police	13,519	13,852	8,231	1,138	4,647	18,518	10,650	1,638
F26 Norfolk	2,904	1,723	393	2,336	205	4,913	1,671	229
F27 Northamptonshire	2,171	600	141	1,616	270	3,832	641	16
F28 Northumbria	1,638	2,044	563	3,835	630	9,104	657	27
F29 North Wales	1,413	0	90	1,913	121	1,396	2,148	1
F30 North Yorkshire	1,627	911	386	737	277	4,569	368	11
F31 Nottinghamshire	3,748	1,471	235	11,106	604	3,545	1,520	69
F32 South Wales	5,162	1,270	625	1,757	227	4,674	279	556
F33 South Yorkshire	3,782	3,980	323	2,415	586	6,510	2,976	191
F34 Staffordshire	809	414	119	220	315	1,781	1,362	109
F35 Suffolk	1,839	989	131	1,766	51	4,383	526	97
F36 Surrey	3,537	1,131	234	5,094	326	2,172	1,214	23
F37 Sussex	4,206	2,206	152	6,703	249	4,410	745	13
F38 Thames Valley	5,620	1,239	617	2,748	386	2,495	4,038	190
F39 Warwickshire	1,845	192	38	566	88	2,692	530	6
F40 West Mercia	1,115	1,690	193	1,952	289	6,244	1,698	3
F41 West Midlands	3,261	1,873	1,878	18,516	1,308	8,310	4,669	658
F42 West Yorkshire	5,086	2,461	552	5,977	852	8,107	1,442	95
F43 Wiltshire	471	360	50	1,091	88	1,152	190	4
Total for Forces	128,205	67,740	25,580	135,491	22,336	199,398	68,782	5,795

	Rowdy/nuisance-environmental damage/littering	*Rowdy/nuisance-neighbours*	*Rowdy/nuisance-rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour*	*Street drinking*	*Solvent misuse*	*Trespass*	*Vehicle nuisance/inappropriate vehicle use*	*Total*
F01 Avon and Somerset	2,475	5,823	67,776	610	28	393	8,911	—
F02 Bedfordshire	252	3,203	25,348	341	11	290	5,711	—
F03 Cambridgeshire	150	4,721	34,727	390	2	71	4,703	—
F04 Cheshire	239	4,749	37,845	117	5	193	9,147	—
F05 City of London	7	17	1,283	70	0	13	87	—
F06 Cleveland	236	4,061	41,114	840	54	139	7,520	—
F07 Cumbria	455	3,872	29,076	439	9	409	2,052	—
F08 Derbyshire	462	5,623	50,242	640	17	89	7,498	—
F09 Devon and Cornwall	334	9,142	70,281	1,215	17	604	8,915	—

	Rowdy/ nuisance-environmental damage/ littering	*Rowdy/ nuisance-neighbours*	*Rowdy/ nuisance-rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour*	*Street drinking*	*Solvent misuse*	*Trespass*	*Vehicle nuisance/ inappropriate vehicle use*	*Total*
F10 Dorset	379	3,679	28,931	210	35	343	4,904	—
F11 Durham	133	2,819	36,563	1,773	19	298	9,545	—
F12 Dyfed Powys	368	4,417	17,056	579	13	355	5,325	—
F13 Essex	382	5,475	53,360	173	4	500	7,876	—
F14 Gloucestershire	240	2,503	20,184	232	19	181	2,860	—
F15 Greater Manchester	726	19,290	146,431	3,477	15	523	24,671	—
F16 Gwent	500	5,025	41,671	1,229	36	583	6,332	65,781
F17 Hampshire	872	10,132	83,654	1,723	243	1,101	13,702	132,351
F18 Hertfordshire	636	5,175	44,458	475	4	126	8,924	78,365
F19 Humberside	267	4,648	30,634	933	21	345	4,918	51,125
F20 Kent	638	9,003	37,172	452	7	475	14,548	76,510
F21 Lancashire	1,184	10,393	101,237	2,704	173	1,319	10,660	157,147
F22 Leicestershire	409	3,026	33,962	252	47	175	5,481	54,062
F23 Lincolnshire	237	1,809	25,919	326	7	203	4,170	39,637
F24 Merseyside	478	8,924	58,037	1,249	46	178	7,995	91,796
F25 Metropolitan Police	793	22,298	193,852	20,431	38,541	3,567	12,035	363,710
F26 Norfolk	613	3,879	39,683	286	68	127	4,982	64,012
F27 Northamptonshire	119	2,261	38,648	439	7	87	3,179	54,027
F28 Northumbria	1,816	14,107	87,629	3,155	322	418	16,966	143,011
F29 North Wales	536	1,502	30,969	403	0	76	2,977	43,545
F30 North Yorkshire	306	2,983	31,708	1,341	19	879	3,781	49,903
F31 Nottinghamshire	139	2,470	56,669	753	124	213	7,854	90,520
F32 South Wales	1,781	6,795	63,479	1,012	127	170	17,562	105,476
F33 South Yorkshire	722	5,413	83,796	1,498	175	165	16,290	128,822
F34 Staffordshire	349	5,213	44,069	982	214	433	4,500	60,889
F35 Suffolk	227	3,058	23,306	567	54	388	5,631	43,013
F36 Surrey	748	5,473	29,413	381	50	250	8,213	58,459
F37 Sussex	299	5,865	56,625	2,376	37	228	11,347	95,461
F38 Thames Valley	1,514	10,066	54,052	1,488	292	618	18,864	104,227
F39 Warwickshire	256	2,364	17,838	346	4	292	3,479	30,536
F40 West Mercia	956	7,172	51,328	281	26	605	11,828	85,380
F41 West Midlands	1,008	19,210	106,710	1,058	0	1,166	12,745	182,370
F42 West Yorkshire	437	7,434	90,994	614	48	561	14,528	139,188
F43 Wiltshire	51	965	14,988	61	4	77	3,141	22,693
Total for Forces	24,729	266,057	2,232,717	57,921	40,944	19,226	366,357	3,661,498

Asylum: Children

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* aims and *(b)* eligibility criteria are of the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Grant is; how much funding was (i) distributed to local authorities via the grant and (ii) subsequently spent by local authorities by local authority in each year since the grant began; and what estimate he has made of the amount of such funding to be provided in the next two years. [292410]

Mr. Woolas: The aim of the grant is to assist local authorities in meeting the costs of supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) under the provisions of the Children Act 1989. With a few small exceptions all UASC that the local authorities are supporting can be included in a claim for funding under the terms of the grant. The full terms of the grant and eligibility criteria can be found at:

> www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithasylumseekers/localauthoritygrants/

The grant reimburses local authorities for expenditure already incurred (subject to audit). It is not possible to break down expenditure under the grant by year before financial year 2005/06 because of the way in which funding claims from local authorities before that time were finally settled.

The breakdown of total expenditure over the past four years is set out in the table:

	Total expenditure (£ million)
2005-06	144.3
2006-07	139.7
2007-08	132.7
2008-09	138.5

It is anticipated that funding levels for the next two years will be at roughly the same level as at present but this depends on discussions with local authorities and on the numbers of new UASC that arrive in the United Kingdom.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what categories of expenditure are covered by the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Grant; how many children have received such funding in each local authority in each year since the grant began; and what estimate he has made of such funding in the next two years. [292411]

Mr. Woolas: The grant covers the main expenditure local authorities incur in looking after unaccompanied asylum seeking children. This includes the cost of a foster placement, the cost of accommodation provided when fostering is not the placement option, the cost of the social workers who provide the care and general administrative costs.

The numbers of children covered by the expenditure since the financial year 2005-06 is set out in the following table. It is not possible to break down numbers before 2005-06 because of the way in which funding claims from local authorities before that time were finally settled.

It is anticipated that funding levels for the next two years will be at roughly the same level as at present but this depends on discussions with local authorities and on the numbers of new UASC that arrive in the United Kingdom.

	Supported numbers at end of year
2005-06	5,521
2006-07	4,993
2007-08	4,493
2008-09	4,604

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the progress of his departmental goal to transfer a large number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children away from London and the South East as stated in his Department's February 2007 consultation paper, Planning better outcomes and support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. [292412]

Mr. Woolas: Insufficient local authorities outside the South-East have expressed a willingness to accept the transfer of the children to their areas to make this policy goal viable.

We are therefore developing the other policy goals set out in the consultation paper on the basis that children who are the responsibility of authorities in the South-East will stay in that area for as long as they remain in the United Kingdom.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many loans have been granted under the Small Business Loan Guarantee Scheme to small and medium-sized businesses in Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency since the establishment of the Scheme. [291445]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The Small Business Loan Guarantee Scheme announced in November 2008 was launched as the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) in January 2009.

Within the constituency of Birmingham, Sparkbrook & Small Heath, as of 16 September 2009, eight businesses have been offered loans totalling £833,265.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each Civil Service payband. [290570]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the average length of employment of staff in the Home Office and its agencies at each pay band as at 31 March 2009.

Pay band	*Median length of service (years) as at 31 March 2009*
A/AA	3.8
B/AO	4.82
C/EO	6.95
D/HEO	7.33
E/SEO	8.44
F/G7	7.1
G/G6	7.75
SCS	3.24

The average length of employment refers to the length of time employees have been working in the Home Office and its agencies rather than time in a particular pay band or career length of service.

Drugs: Sentencing

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been sentenced to immediate custody for possession of drugs of each *(a)* type and *(b)* class in (i) each police force area and (ii) England in each of the last 10 years. [291481]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to prohibit Yunus Yosfiah and Christoforus da Silva from entering the UK following their naming by the Coroner of New South Wales in her findings on the murders of British citizens Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters in 1975 in East Timor; and if he will make a statement. [292313]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* It is not Home Office policy to comment on individual cases. Any individual whose presence in the UK is not considered conducive to the public good may be denied entry.

Entry Clearances: Appeals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has issued on the time elapsing between an appeal determination being issued by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and a visa being issued to the applicant. [291932]

Mr. Woolas: Guidance on Appeals (INF 19) is available on the UK Border Agency's Visa Services website:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

This advises appellants that it can take up to six weeks for the visa section to be notified through official channels that an appeal has been allowed, and that the visa section will then contact the appellant. Visa sections are expected to do so within three weeks of receiving the notification. The guidance does not go on to indicate how long it will then take for the visa to be issued as this will depend on how quickly the appellant returns their passport to the visa section and the number of checks that need to be carried out.

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department plans to implement the decision of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal in respect of the appeal OA/46462/2008; what the average period between a tribunal decision in favour of an appellant in an entry clearance case and the granting of entry clearance was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [292046]

Mr. Woolas: Although appeal number OA/46462/2008 was allowed on 2 March 2009, notification was not received in the Visa Section in Islamabad until 10 June. A letter was sent to the appellant on 15 June requesting submission of the passport and this was subsequently received on 2 July. Verification checks were then undertaken and the visa was issued on 8 October. The processing was delayed due to a backlog of appeal cases in Islamabad. The UK Border Agency plans to reduce this to near zero levels by mid-November. Turnaround times in allowed appeal cases will then be significantly quicker.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision on the entry clearance application made to the High Commission in Islamabad, reference 1494299, will be made. [292044]

Mr. Woolas: Entry clearance application reference Islamabad 1494299 was submitted on 15 April 2008 and a decision was made on 6 June 2008. Although the appeal against the decision was allowed on 2 March 2009, notification was not received in the Visa Section until 10 June 2009. A letter was sent to the appellant on 15 June 2009 requesting submission of the passport, and this was subsequently received on 2 July 2009. Verification checks were then undertaken and the visa was issued on 8 October 2009.

The delay in processing was due to a backlog of appeal cases in Islamabad. The UK Border Agency plans to reduce this to near zero levels by mid-November. Turnaround times in allowed appeal cases will then be significantly quicker.

Entry Clearances: Students

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of people who entered the UK on a student visa and remained in the UK after the expiration of the visa in the last 10 years. [291928]

Mr. Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 no Government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who have overstayed their visas, including those who entered on a student visa.

However, as part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by 2010 over 95 per cent. of non-EEA foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country, rising to 100 per cent. by 2014. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Further to this, Local Immigration Teams (LITs) are being established to serve every community in the UK. Each local team will enforce immigration laws working shoulder-to-shoulder with police, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, local authorities and other local partners to target immigration crime (including seeking to detect and remove those overstaying on their visa) and address local community concerns on migration. By December 2011 there will be a team serving every community in the country.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take to ensure the effectiveness of the system for granting visas to overseas students wishing to study in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [291978]

Mr. Woolas: At the end of March this year we implemented Tier 4 of the Points Based System for international students.

We have monitored carefully the implementation of the new system, making various small changes to it in the light of experience. We have now received and processed more student applications than at the equivalent time last year, predominantly within customer service standards. Further IT changes will be introduced between now and February 2010 to further improve processing. We have kept in close touch with stakeholders to understand their needs.

Information on end to end processing times at each overseas post can be found at:

https://ukvisas-stage.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/processingtimes

Human Trafficking: Females

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shelters for trafficked women his Department plans to build in each of the next five years. [291552]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking which the Government ratified in December last year commits the UK to provision of sheltered accommodation for all those trafficked women who need it.

The Government have consequently invested £4 million into specialist support services for victims of human trafficking over the next two years.

This includes an investment of £3.7 million into the Poppy project to expand and improve the services that are available to victims that have been trafficked into the sex-industry and domestic servitude. The additional investment will see an expansion of supported accommodation, with refuge places for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in London, Sheffield and Cardiff. The investment will also fund a new national co-ordinator who will help set best practice standards and work with areas to raise awareness with local agencies and funding commissioners. There will also be an increase in advocacy workers to help provide one-to-one tailored support and the community outreach team will also be extended with two link workers based within the UK Human Trafficking Centre to work in partnership with the police, UK Border Agency and other partners to help with victim identification and onward referral into support.

Additionally, £300,000 is being invested into the UK Human Trafficking Centre to develop flexible support services for victims of labour trafficking.

National Security

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to protect the supply of *(a)* water, *(b)* food and *(c)* communications from burn-out caused by an electromagnetic pulse attack. [289836]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The Government's Cyber Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, published alongside and reflected in the National Security Strategy update, considers a number of methods of cyber attack, including those that generate high levels of power that can damage or disrupt unprotected electronics. It also outlines the new governance structures and workstreams which will build on existing work to take forward the Government's plans for reducing the impact on and vulnerability of the UK's interests from cyber attacks.

The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities, companies and banks CPNI also runs a CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) service which responds to reported attacks on private sector networks. In addition, CESG, provides government departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

It would not be in the interests of national security to provide information about specific protective measures relating to electromagnetic pulse attack.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the last five years have been convicted of offences of both child abuse and viewing online child abuse images. [291751]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child pornography of taking, permitting to be taken, distributing, publishing or possession of indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in table 1 as follows. It is not possible to separately identify computer based offences from other offences related to indecent photographs.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child abuse, from 2003 to 2007 is shown in table 2 as follows. There is no specific offence of "child abuse" therefore statistics are only provided where the age of the victim can be identified as a child from the description of the offence. Furthermore the term "child abuse" describes harm caused to a child arising from emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect caused by a parent, guardian, carer, or stranger. A number of other offences such as offences against the person including physical assault may frequently be used by the police to charge offenders.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004. Table 2 includes, for 2003 only, comparable offences under the Sexual Offences Act 1956.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of November 2009.

Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child pornography[1] from 2003 to 2007[2, 3]

Offence Description	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Take, permit to be taken, or to make distribute or publish indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children	1,048	978	958	768	782
Possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child	239	184	196	166	185

[1] Offences under the Protection of Children Act 1978, section 1 and section 6 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, section 84 & Criminal Justice & Court Services Act 2000 S.41(1); Offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec. 160 as amended by the Criminal Justice & Court Services Act 2000.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the more severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence & Analysis Unit.

Table 2: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child abuse, 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004[3] S.5	Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person	[4]—	[4]—	—	2	6
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.1	Cruelty or neglect of children	494	540	482	488	493
Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.27	Abandoning children under 2 years	1	—	—	2	1

Table 2: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child abuse, 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.1	Rape of a female aged under 16	[6]254	275	234	219	236
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.1	Rape of a male aged under 16	[6]29	28	32	15	23
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S. 5	Rape of a female child under 13 by a male	[4]—	5	58	85	91
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S. 5	Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	[4]—	1	14	32	37
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.7[5]	Sexual assault of a female child under 13	[4]—	34	174	243	273
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.8(1)(2)(1)(3), S.10(1a,b,ci)(3), S.9(1a,b,cii)(2)(3), S.10(1,a,b,c(ii)(2)(3)	Sexual activity involving a child	[4]—	20	127	185	190
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.16(1ei,2-5),(1eii,2-5), S.17(1ei,2-5)(1eii,2-5), S.18(1fi,2-5), S19(1ei,2-5)	Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with children	[4]—	3	14	16	15
Total		778	906	1,135	1,287	1,365

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the more severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5 came into force on 21 March 2005.

[4] Not applicable.

[5] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[6] Sexual Offences Act 1956, S.1, as amended by the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994, S.142—comparable offences to S.1 Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence & Analysis Unit

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to implement the commitments made by G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers in relation to combating child pornography on the internet. [291976]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government fully support the declaration on combating child pornography made by the G8 in Munich in 2007, and followed up by the Declaration made in Rome this year. The Government believe that the UK has the right laws in place to tackle child sexual images, but is always willing to consider changes should the need be identified.

The Government have been very clear that the use of blocking to prevent access to these images is something that internet service providers should do, and we are very pleased with the support from these providers, which has led to 98.6 per cent. of UK consumer broadband lines being covered by blocking of sites identified by the Internet Watch Foundation as containing such illegal images.

The Government, through the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, has also supported the European Financial Coalition, which brings together law enforcement and the financial sector to help tackle websites providing these images for financial gain. The Government support this work, both at UK and at EU level, to make sure that not only do law enforcement catch the perpetrators, but that their financial gain is minimised.

Offensive Weapons: Schools

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the number of offences related to the possession of a knife of those aspects of the Tackling Knives Action Programme which apply to schools. [287551]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Figures for possession of a knife or offensive weapon which relate to schools are too small for reliable interpretation; therefore they are counted within the sentencing statistics for England and Wales. Figures are given for all knife crime possession offences in England and Wales, including those on a school premises.

The most recent figures from the Ministry of Justice show that the number of offences involving possession of a knife or offensive weapon fell 7 per cent. (from 6,931 to 6,477 offences) in January to March 2009, compared with the same period in 2008.

In the same period the number of offences committed by young people aged 10-17 years fell by 15 per cent. (from 1,591 to 1,359 offences).

Opiates

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the weight notified to his Department by manufacturers of opiate derivatives and finished products of loss or theft of product was of *(a)* opiate raw material, *(b)* opiate medicinal products, *(c)* oxycodone raw material and *(d)* codeine raw material in each year between 1999 and 2009. [290063]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data are not available in the format requested. However figures for total losses including during manufacturing, destructions, thefts and losses are available for the years 2001 to 2007 in the following table. These figures are a combination of losses during the manufacturing process, destruction and stolen/mislaid drugs and are based on figures reported by licensees. We do not have data for loss or theft alone.

Reported losses of opioid drugs (includes losses during manufacturing process, amounts destroyed, stolen and mislaid)

Kgs

Drug	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*
Codeine	1880.523	1273.943	1383.577	1762.57	1420.662	1330.045	233.929

Reported losses of opioid drugs (includes losses during manufacturing process, amounts destroyed, stolen and mislaid)

Drug	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*Kgs* *2001*
Dextromoramide	0.007	0.026	0.005	0.08	0.091	1.776	2.915
Dextropropoxyphene	2.764	130.296	13.14	304.99	136.113	51.721	331.377
Dihydromorphine	0.77	1.037	0.606	0	0	0	0
Dihydrocodeine	12.011	570.047	326.345	49.887	96.236	18.353	14.881
Diphenoxylate	0.002	0.491	0.083	0.021	0.014	1.46	1.89
Dipipanone	0	0.006	0.01	0.013	0.77	23.112	0.205
Etorphine	0.097	0.03	0.039	0.027	0.02	0.094	0.029
Heroin	46.804	51.949	26.098	29.109	39.025	23.543	35.904
Hydrocodone	0.452	0.094	0.788	0.967	44.722	2.596	3.647
Hydromorphone	110.554	99.899	104.177	102.933	87.988	73.491	15.288
Ketobemidone	0.009	0.157	0.239	0.521	1.58	0.114	0.257
Levorphanol	0.009	0	0.009	0	0	0	0
Methadone	5.184	46.574	18.588	21.279	22.711	104.658	10.579
Morphine	2219.643	1728.901	2494.167	2738.084	2714.037	2118.924	1981.159
Opium	0	0.215	165.025	0.001	73.153	0	0.001
Oxycodone	1338.908	379.842	1735.686	987.854	415.843	223.074	71.826
Oxymorphone	0.025	0	0.066	0.008	0	0	0.001
Pethidine	10.401	30.482	4.385	11.061	35.181	7.159	16.491
Pholcodine	3.963	94.612	146.058	109.038	19.03	16.753	4.139
Thebaine	11.963	4.875	5.902	8.618	10.241	2.262	3.305
Medicinal Opium	0.329	0.464	0	1.578	0.208	0.929	0.63
Alfentanil	0.13	0.15175	0.174041	0.17802	0.41201	0.13029	0.059211
Fentanyl	0.774	0.282424	516.72064	1.28224	2.74025	0.84992	0.391571
Piritramide	—	0.000005	0.0129	0	0.003	0	0.002401
Remifentanil	0.069	0.000098	1.99571	11.834	9.659	0.059321	0
Sufentanil	0.085	0.000026	0.09621	0.045097	0.107012	0.0202	0.030521

Police

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of differences in the delivery of policing in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas; and if he will make a statement. [292370]

Mr. Hanson: The Government do not make assessments on the differences in the delivery of policing in rural and urban areas. Under the Police Performance Assessment Framework, police forces were compared within a similar group of forces. Selection criteria for these groups took into account a range of socio-economic factors including urbanisation and rurality. Following the publication of the Policing Green Paper, responsibility for assessing policing performance shifted from the Home Office to Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC).

The HMIC are currently reviewing the mechanisms for qualitative assessments and developing rounded assessments for the delivery of policing services.

Police Authorities: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary is of the *(a)* chair and *(b)* vice chair of each police authority in England. [291980]

Mr. Hanson: Chairs and vice chairs of police authorities receive no salary. Under regulation 29 of the Police Authority Regulations 2009, each police authority must publish the arrangements they have in place for their chair and vice chairs' expenses and allowances. This information will be available from the individual police authorities but is not held centrally.

Police: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were *(a)* per head of population and *(b)* per notifiable offence in each police force area in each year since 1997. [291186]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The available data are given in the following tables:

Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2009

Police force	*1997[3]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[4]*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Avon and Somerset	204	203	203	197	197	205	213	229	225	226	224	218	213
Bedfordshire	200	197	189	185	184	189	198	210	215	213	207	204	209
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	194	196	187	183	191
Cheshire	209	208	211	204	204	209	217	224	223	223	225	218	217
Cleveland	261	266	255	252	253	263	294	314	305	308	315	303	314
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	257	256	255	251	258
Derbyshire	187	184	182	183	187	189	210	216	213	212	209	212	215
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	212	219	216	214	213
Dorset	189	192	186	189	196	198	205	209	211	216	217	216	213

Police officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2009

Police force	*1997*[3]	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*[4]	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	293	288	285	272	263
Essex	197	193	190	183	178	181	186	192	198	203	203	203	206
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	200	209	209	219	229	230	228	229	234	235
Greater Manchester	268	270	265	264	268	279	298	323	321	318	314	315	321
Hampshire	198	199	197	193	193	195	208	211	212	211	215	214	207
Hertfordshire	205	202	198	201	184	174	191	204	206	208	210	204	204
Humberside	230	228	223	219	217	234	244	256	255	251	251	248	233
Kent	210	209	204	203	209	210	221	228	227	227	229	227	231
Lancashire	228	229	228	223	228	231	239	252	251	253	252	254	259
Leicestershire	211	214	215	215	218	224	232	246	246	241	237	233	243
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	185	183	183	175	177
London, City of[5]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Merseyside	296	297	298	290	291	294	302	303	318	315	325	331	333
Metropolitan Police[5]	367	356	352	341	351	366	404	420	433	428	426	430	432
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	192	193	191	190	198
Northamptonshire	196	193	186	181	186	194	194	198	201	207	200	196	196
Northumbria	256	263	269	266	272	278	290	294	294	291	283	285	294
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	206	216	217	202	185
Nottinghamshire	225	225	216	214	214	226	239	245	245	243	235	224	227
South Yorkshire	242	244	243	243	245	246	252	261	260	259	256	248	235
Staffordshire	209	217	211	204	201	201	212	218	220	219	219	214	208
Suffolk	180	179	179	171	168	177	188	196	195	191	196	188	182
Surrey	209	207	212	227	192	184	182	183	184	184	183	179	170
Sussex	211	203	191	188	188	190	203	206	205	207	205	201	208
Thames Valley	180	183	180	178	175	177	186	195	198	202	199	194	198
Warwickshire	186	185	180	178	182	190	198	197	195	198	199	198	189
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	203	202	205	210	208
West Midlands	270	271	278	274	283	293	307	311	316	318	318	324	332
West Yorkshire	247	244	236	228	228	230	242	254	271	270	270	269	268
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	198	196	192	190	191
Dyfed-Powys	212	210	215	217	219	234	237	236	237	237	236	237	236
Gwent	275	222	224	227	229	239	244	248	259	264	268	266	257
North Wales	208	213	212	213	220	228	234	243	250	242	238	234	234
South Wales	223	242	241	236	250	259	273	275	273	271	273	264	255
England and Wales	241	240	237	233	234	240	254	264	267	267	266	264	266

[1] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhymney Valley from South Wales Police to Gwent Police.

[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan Police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.

[5] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.

Table 1: Total offences per officer for 1997

Police force area	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	48
Bedfordshire	44
Cambridgeshire	47
Cheshire	30
Cleveland	43
Cumbria	31
Derbyshire	42
Devon and Cornwall	32
Dorset	34
Durham	32
Essex	31
Gloucestershire	43
Greater Manchester	44
Hampshire	36
Hertfordshire	29
Humberside	60
Kent	38
Lancashire	37
Leicestershire	41
Lincolnshire	36
London, City of	6
Merseyside	30
Metropolitan police	30
Norfolk	37
Northamptonshire	46
Northumbria	37
North Yorkshire	37
Nottinghamshire	55
South Yorkshire	41
Staffordshire	39
Suffolk	30
Surrey	24
Sussex	37
Thames Valley	42
Warwickshire	39
West Mercia	47
West Midlands	39
West Yorkshire	47
Wiltshire	29

Table 1: Total offences per officer for 1997

Police force area	*Number*
England	37

Note:
Recorded crime statistics were collected on a calendar year basis up to 1997 and thereafter on a financial year basis. Therefore, these figures are not comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Total offences per officer for 1998-99 to 2001-02

Number

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	50	50	50	57
Bedfordshire	47	52	48	49
Cambridgeshire	53	56	50	51
Cheshire	31	32	32	34
Cleveland	47	46	46	49
Cumbria	36	35	31	34
Derbyshire	48	48	45	49
Devon and Cornwall	38	39	35	33
Dorset	41	40	37	40
Durham	32	31	28	32
Essex	33	37	37	38
Gloucestershire	44	46	43	43
Greater Manchester	53	55	53	53
Hampshire	37	40	39	39
Hertfordshire	29	30	33	37
Humberside	66	63	58	57
Kent	40	39	39	36
Lancashire	36	34	36	42
Leicestershire	47	47	43	42
Lincolnshire	41	41	37	42
London, City of	9	11	12	13
Merseyside	33	36	35	37
Metropolitan police	36	41	40	40
Norfolk	41	43	40	40
Northamptonshire	58	55	49	50
Northumbria	39	38	35	35
North Yorkshire	41	42	40	42
Nottinghamshire	61	62	61	68
South Yorkshire	42	42	39	42
Staffordshire	41	46	49	55
Suffolk	34	38	39	42
Surrey	26	26	31	31
Sussex	46	48	48	47
Thames Valley	47	51	51	52
Warwickshire	42	43	40	44
West Mercia	40	45	40	51
West Midlands	43	51	49	48
West Yorkshire	55	54	54	61
Wiltshire	33	34	33	33
England	41	44	42	44

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997 and earlier.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Total offences per officer for 2002-03 to 2008-09

Number

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	55	48	48	46	48	44	42
Bedfordshire	55	53	48	50	48	44	37
Cambridgeshire	61	57	53	47	50	49	46
Cheshire	40	42	41	44	41	37	35
Cleveland	47	44	41	43	40	40	31
Cumbria	33	32	35	35	31	30	25
Derbyshire	52	48	41	40	40	37	35
Devon and Cornwall	41	40	40	36	36	32	29
Dorset	44	44	40	40	37	35	35
Durham	31	29	27	31	32	30	29
Essex	46	47	42	40	39	36	32
Gloucestershire	45	45	41	41	40	34	32
Greater Manchester	52	46	40	41	42	38	35
Hampshire	42	48	46	47	48	44	43
Hertfordshire	44	46	46	45	42	38	36
Humberside	63	64	56	52	51	44	42
Kent	37	38	38	41	40	36	32
Lancashire	39	43	43	40	38	34	32
Leicestershire	45	42	42	41	42	40	37
Lincolnshire	51	49	48	47	45	44	42
London, City of	12	11	10	10	9	9	9
Merseyside	40	41	40	41	35	29	27
Metropolitan police	39	36	33	32	30	28	27
Norfolk	48	46	43	42	40	36	30
Northamptonshire	61	63	58	52	52	50	45
Northumbria	42	39	35	33	33	28	26
North Yorkshire	47	47	40	36	33	32	35
Nottinghamshire	67	64	57	56	57	54	49

Table 3: Total offences per officer for 2002-03 to 2008-09

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Number* *2008-09*
South Yorkshire	48	43	43	50	49	45	43
Staffordshire	49	48	44	46	46	39	39
Suffolk	40	41	40	41	38	37	37
Surrey	36	38	37	36	39	36	36
Sussex	44	44	46	44	43	39	34
Thames Valley	54	52	50	48	50	48	46
Warwickshire	44	45	43	42	43	41	40
West Mercia	47	45	40	36	34	34	32
West Midlands	45	43	36	36	34	30	27
West Yorkshire	64	62	47	46	44	40	37
Wiltshire	38	35	33	35	37	37	34
England	45	44	40	40	38	35	33

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were employed in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire, *(c)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(d)* England in (i) 1997, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009. [292369]

Mr. Hanson: Officer strength figures for North Yorkshire, the Yorkshire and Humber Government office region and England are all available within the annual Police Service Strength England and Wales, Statistical Bulletin. Figures as at 31 March are published every July.

Police personnel statistics are not available by parliamentary constituency. Figures at basic command unit level are available in the supplementary tables to the statistical bulletin.

Recent editions of the bulletin are available on the Home Office website and previous editions are available in the House of Commons Library at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

Police: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of police services received more than £64,000 in salary in the latest year for which figures are available. [292000]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Rural Areas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum acceptable response time is for a police force to respond to a report of a crime in a rural area. [292366]

Mr. Hanson: The Policing Pledge, introduced in the Green Paper 2008, sets out the police service's offer to citizens for delivery of service.

The pledge includes specific elements that encompass how the service aims to respond to reports of crimes. That response will depend on the grading applied in accordance with National Call gradings. There is no maximum acceptable response time, but in the case of an emergency in a rural area, most police forces aim to respond within 20 minutes.

In other cases, the response will be determined in accordance with the caller's needs and the provisions within the pledge.

Surveillance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted to use powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by (i) each local authority and (ii) each NHS trust in England in (A) 2003-04 and (B) 2007-08. [291737]

Mr. Hanson: The Government do not have figures for individual public authorities. The total number of requests for each covert investigative technique is available in the published, independent annual reports of the Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Chief Surveillance Commissioner. These give the following:

Table on covert investigatory powers authorised

Interception	*2003*	*2007*
Authorised by the Home Secretary or Scottish Executive	1,983	2,026
Communications data	2003	2007
By all public authorities	[1]—	519,260
By local authorities	[1]—	1,707
Intrusive Surveillance	2003/04	2007/08
By law enforcement agencies	447	355
Property interference	2003/04	2007/08
By law enforcement agencies	2,483	2,493
Directed surveillance	2003/04	2007/08
By law enforcement agencies	26,986	18,767
By other public authorities	6,398	9,535
CHIS	2003/04	2007/08
By law enforcement agencies	5,907	4,498
By other public authorities	273	234

[1] Not given

Note:
Figures taken from annual reports from the relevant oversight Commissioner

The figures are not broken down further. Copies of the Commissioners' reports are in the House Library.

Terrorism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of terrorism offences in the UK since 2001 are foreign nationals. [290102]

Mr. Woolas: Details of the nationality of individuals who have been convicted of terrorism offences since 2001 are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Terrorism: Deportation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of terrorism offences in the UK since 2001 have been deported. [290114]

Mr. Woolas: Details of the number of people who have been convicted of terrorism offences and who have subsequently been deported since 2001 are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Terrorism: Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of terrorism offences in the UK since 2001 were illegal immigrants. [290115]

Mr. Woolas: Details of the number of illegal immigrants who have been convicted of terrorism offences since 2001 are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Work Permits: Bulgaria/Romania

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK work permits have been issued to *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian nationals since the accession of those countries to the EU. [291067]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The number of work permits issued between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2008 to Romanian nationals is 1,690 and to Bulgarian nationals is 3,240.

Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The figures equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted a work permit. Not all those who were granted a work permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Sixth Form Colleges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 636W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme: sixth form colleges, how sixth form colleges located within local authority areas which have already received Building Schools for the Future funding will access funds to renew their buildings; and what assessments he made in relation to the sixth form college estate in deciding which local authorities will be included in the next wave of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [289403]

Mr. Coaker: Pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1403W, I restate that we have made our intention clear to bring sixth form colleges within the scope of the Building Schools for the Future programme. That remains our position. We will make the details clear as soon as we are able.

Children: Prisoners

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assistance is made available to children with one or both parents in prison *(a)* to maintain contact with their parents where appropriate, *(b)* to prevent unequal treatment of them and *(c)* for other purposes. [291853]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department recognises that many children of offenders are vulnerable and is working closely with the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service to meet their needs.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice will jointly publish a cross-Government framework later this year setting out recommended practice by local agencies and offenders services in identifying and supporting these children. The Department has also funded a range of innovative voluntary sector projects supporting families of offenders through the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) grant programme.

In addition to this many prison establishments hold regular family days for visitors—enabling children to spend a longer period of time with their parent who is in custody. This will often involve opportunities for participation in family learning and play and sports activities, enabling offenders to interact with their children on a one to one basis. The Assisted Prison Visits Scheme operated by the National Offender Management Service also helps children maintain contact with their parent while they are in prison by meeting travel expenses where the child's parent has a low income.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support is given to children with one or more parents in prison, with particular reference to *(a)* maintaining contact with the parent or parents, unless this is deemed contrary to the child's best interests and *(b)* preventing stigmatisation of and discrimination against them. [292526]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department recognises that many children of offenders are vulnerable and is working closely with the Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service to meet their needs.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice will jointly publish a cross-government Framework later this year setting out recommended practice by local agencies and offenders services in identifying and supporting these children. The Department has also funded a range of innovative voluntary sectors projects supporting families of offenders through the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) grant programme.

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Children: Social Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to ensure social workers and directors of children's services are aware of the provisions of section 53 of the Children Act 2004; and whether his Department plans to issue good practice guidance on taking the views of children into account in decision-making. [291771]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (2006), supplementary guidance associated with Working Together and the "Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004" (2007) all set out the responsibilities of directors of children's services and social workers in relation to section 53 of the Children Act 2004. The training materials "Safeguarding Children—a shared responsibility" (2007), commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to assist staff at all levels fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities, also explain these provisions and advise on how to implement them in appropriate ways. The updated Working Together, being revised following Lord Laming's recommendations, will make even clearer the responsibilities of those concerned to ascertain the wishes and feelings of children.

Children's Trusts

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what roles schools have in providing information to parents on Children's Trusts; and if he will make a statement. [289697]

Dawn Primarolo: Subject to the passage of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill 2009 currently before Parliament, maintained schools will become 'relevant partners' of the Children's Trust, and statutory members of the Children's Trust Board. Subject to consultation, statutory guidance will make clear that each Children's Trust Board should ensure that systems are in place to provide accessible and comprehensive information about what services are available locally to parents and young people.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of maintained mainstream schools did not enter any pupils for *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biology and *(d)* history GCSE in 2008. [286404]

Mr. Coaker: Of the 3,159 maintained mainstream schools published in the 2008 Achievement and Attainment Tables,

1,810 (57.3 per cent.) entered no pupils for physics,

1,802 (57.0 per cent.) entered no pupils for chemistry,

1,737 (54.8 per cent.) entered no pupils for biology and

131 (4.1 per cent.) entered no pupil for history.

National Curriculum Tests: Disadvantaged

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who failed to achieve a Level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics in their Key Stage 2 tests in the latest period for which figures are available were eligible to receive free school meals. [286715]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is shown as follows:

	Pupils achieving Level 3 or below in reading, writing and maths[1]	
Free school meal eligibility	*Number*	*Percentage*
FSM	17,783	33
Non FSM	35,058	66
Total[2]	53,332	100

[1] Includes pupils working below the level of the test (Level B); pupils who took the test but failed to registered a level (Level N), Level 2 (maths only); Level 3.

[2] Includes pupils for whom FSM information was not sought or for which information was refused.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what research his Department has commissioned on the effects of exclusion on pupils in the last three years; [291949]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to schools on the criteria to be used in determining whether or not to exclude a specific pupil; [291950]

(3) what guidance his Department has issued to local education authorities on school exclusions and the provision of alternative arrangements for the education of excluded pupils. [291951]

Mr. Coaker: The law on exclusion is a devolved issue and any question relating to Wales' educational system should be put to the Welsh Assembly.

The Department has not commissioned research on the impact of exclusion from school on pupils in the last three years.

Guidance for schools and local authorities in England on exclusion is available in "Improving behaviour and attendance: guidance on exclusion from schools and Pupil Referral Units 2008" available at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/exclusion

Head teachers have discretion to deal with pupils who are displaying challenging behaviour. Responses to such behaviour should be made in the context of the school's behaviour policy, and should encompass a range of strategies, with exclusion as one option, so that the interests of the whole school are reflected in the action taken.

Exclusion from school in England should not mean exclusion from education. Since September 2007, all schools have had a statutory duty to provide suitable, full-time education for pupils who have been given a fixed period exclusion of six days or more. Likewise, English local authorities have a duty to arrange suitable, full-time education for pupils who have been permanently excluded from the sixth day of their exclusion. This requirement applies to all pupils of compulsory school age.

Schools: Manpower

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants were employed in maintained schools in each local education authority area in the North West in each year since 1997. [289293]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the full time equivalent number of regular teachers and teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools in each local authority in the North West Government Office Region in January 1997 to 2009.

Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasional)[1] and teaching assistants[2] in local authority[3] maintained schools. Years: January 1997 to 2009. Coverage: Local authority area in the North West Government Office Region

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Teachers													
Cumbria	4,030	4,060	4,130	4,240	4,180	4,380	4,430	4,450	4,560	4,750	4,260	4,350	4,210
Former Cheshire	8,190	8,240	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire (post 1.4.98)	—	—	5,490	5,610	5,600	5,680	5,770	5,710	5,700	5,770	5,780	5,730	6,060
Halton	—	—	1,220	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,170	1,140	1,130	1,140	1,150	1,150	1,110
Warrington	—	—	1,530	1,650	1,680	1,720	1,730	1,780	1,800	1,880	1,810	1,820	1,820
Bolton	2,440	2,430	2,430	2,500	2,500	2,560	2,540	2,540	2,510	2,550	2,550	2,570	2,580
Bury	1,460	1,420	1,460	1,470	1,480	1,490	1,500	1,500	1,550	1,590	1,550	1,540	1,550
Manchester	3,850	3,730	4,220	3,750	3,790	3,760	3,820	3,830	3,990	3,920	3,840	3,910	3,910
Oldham	2,240	2,220	2,230	2,220	2,280	2,270	2,250	2,290	2,380	2,350	2,310	2,290	2,290
Rochdale	1,830	1,840	1,830	1,880	1,870	1,900	1,890	1,930	1,920	1,950	1,910	1,870	1,870
Salford	1,920	1,900	1,900	1,950	1,920	1,920	1,890	1,930	1,930	1,910	1,940	1,820	1,760
Stockport	2,220	2,170	2,210	2,210	2,330	2,350	2,340	2,380	2,280	2,270	2,270	2,200	2,200
Tameside	1,830	1,870	1,940	1,960	1,930	2,070	2,030	2,010	1,990	2,020	1,970	1,990	1,890
Trafford	1,750	1,860	1,880	1,910	1,900	1,880	2,020	1,970	1,960	2,010	2,040	2,100	2,000
Wigan	2,760	2,690	2,690	2,690	2,990	2,800	2,800	2,830	2,890	2,800	2,770	2,700	2,770
Former Lancashire	11,870	11,930	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire (post 1.4.98)	—	—	9,690	9,750	9,710	9,640	9,710	9,920	9,910	9,950	9,840	9,850	9,800
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	1,360	1,390	1,310	1,390	1,400	1,410	1,420	1,480	1,460	1,350	1,440
Blackpool	—	—	1,010	1,030	1,100	1,120	1,150	1,160	1,220	1,260	1,230	1,140	1,180
Knowsley	1,530	1',530	1,570	1,640	1,530	1,450	1,570	1,510	1,500	1,470	1,430	1,390	1,390
Liverpool	4,340	4,280	4,240	4,130	4,320	4,750	4,290	4,410	4,350	4,290	4,150	4,170	4,180
St. Helens	1,590	1,570	1,570	1,570	1,570	1,580	1,630	1,550	1,600	1,570	1,550	1,550	1,540
Sefton	2,540	2,520	2,510	2,540	2,610	2,620	2,660	2,700	2,520	2,520	2,500	2,450	2,420
Wirral	2,930	2,970	2,990	2,970	3,020	3,090	3,080	3,050	3,050	3,020	2,970	2,800	3,030
North West	59,300	59,200	60,100	60200	60,400	61,600	61,700	62,000	62,200	62,500	61,300	60,800	61,000
Teaching Assistants													
Cumbria	610	620	660	730	840	1,100	1,110	1,150	1,200	1,310	1,470	1,540	1,540
Former Cheshire	1,130	1,240	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire (post 1.4.98)	—	—	830	870	1,020	1,120	1,230	1,350	1,530	1,740	1,960	2,240	2,370
Halton	—	—	190	200	240	250	270	320	320	330	350	370	410
Warrington	—	—	250	270	320	370	380	440	510	630	690	720	800
Bolton	390	430	480	570	650	790	830	950	1,050	1,070	1,090	1,190	1,190
Bury	270	260	280	330	360	460	480	540	590	640	680	740	810
Manchester	740	750	750	810	1,080	1,430	1,610	1,750	1,880	1,920	2.290	2,100	2,410
Oldham	390	410	430	470	560	580	630	690	780	830	950	1,050	1,070
Rochdale	260	270	290	340	530	680	710	760	840	860	950	1,040	1,130
Salford	430	440	450	480	530	700	570	660	790	780	820	900	840
Stockport	340	360	310	410	510	670	700	750	810	780	840	910	980
Tameside	280	290	310	360	490	360	420	460	520	660	650	770	710
Trafford	190	200	220	230	300	230	300	380	420	440	510	650	650
Wigan	340	390	420	430	560	440	740	800	880	980	1,160	1,130	1,190

Full-time equivalent regular teachers (excluding occasional)[1] and teaching assistants[2] in local authority[3] maintained schools. Years: January 1997 to 2009. Coverage: Local authority area in the North West Government Office Region

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Former Lancashire	1,780	2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire (post 1.4.98)	—	—	1,670	1,830	2,190	1,960	3,130	3,300	3,570	3,890	4,070	4,640	4,870
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	300	350	430	360	530	580	610	650	660	740	760
Blackpool	—	—	190	220	290	190	390	430	480	480	470	560	560
Knowsley	210	230	260	280	350	470	430	490	480	460	510	610	600
Liverpool	450	490	520	610	920	720	1,150	1,150	1,190	1,130	1,100	1,260	1,300
St. Helens	260	270	290	310	390	420	480	530	640	610	640	660	720
Sefton	360	380	410	470	580	490	650	680	750	780	870	1,020	1,010
Wirral	320	350	390	420	570	620	780	790	850	1,020	1,010	1,110	1,170
North West	8,750	9370	9,920	10,990	13,700	14,400	17500	18,950	20,700	22,020	23,730	25,970	27,080

[1] *Source:*
Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies (618g).
[2] *Source:*
School Census
[3] The first, second and third phases of local government reorganisation came into effect on 1 April 1996, 1 April 1997 and 1 April 1998 respectively. The new authorities are shown directly below their former parent local education authorities.

Schools: Nottingham

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value added measures for each school in Nottingham were in the latest period for which figures are available. [292397]

Mr. Coaker: The Achievement and Attainment Tables (AATs) give a summary of performance of each school, including their Contextual Value Added measure.

The 2008 AATs can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/

and are also in the Library.

Science: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in the *(a)* maintained mainstream and *(b)* independent sector had one or more students achieve a GCSE in both core science and additional applied science in each year since 2007; [286803]

(2) at how many schools in the *(a)* maintained mainstream and *(b)* independent sector one or more students achieved a GCSE in both core science and additional science in each year since 2007. [286806]

Mr. Coaker: In 2007, no schools had one or more pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieve pass grades in both core science and additional applied science GCSEs. In 2008, 908 maintained schools and 14 independent schools had one or more pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieve pass grades in both core science and additional applied science GCSEs.

In 2007, 37 maintained schools and one independent school had one or more pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieve pass grades in both core science and additional science GCSEs.

In 2008, 2,992 maintained schools and 540 independent schools had one or more pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieve pass grades in both core science and additional science GCSEs.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables database

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in the National Challenge programme *(a)* entered pupils for and *(b)* offered courses in the separate sciences at GCSE in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [287529]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not hold information on which subjects are offered by schools.

Based on 2008 data, the latest year for which validated results are available, there were 440 schools below the National Challenge floor target. Of those, 125 schools entered at least one pupil in at least one of the separate sciences in 2008. Those schools are listed as follows.

	Location
Kidbrooke School	Greenwich
St. Michael and All Angels CofE Academy	Southwark
St. Paul's Way Community School	Tower Hamlets
George Green's School	Tower Hamlets
Bexleyheath School	Bexley
The Business Academy Bexley	Bexley
John Kelly Boys' Technology College	Brent
Selsdon High School	Croydon
Albany School	Enfield
Harlington Community School	Hillingdon
Barnhill Community High School	Hillingdon
Stockley Academy	Hillingdon
Feltham Community College	Hounslow
Tom Hood Community Science College	Waltham Forest
Golden Hillock School, a Specialist College for Sport	Birmingham
Hodge Hill Sports and Enterprise College	Birmingham
Cockshut Hill Technology College	Birmingham
Moseley School A Language College	Birmingham
George Dixon International School and Sixth Form Centre	Birmingham
Castle High School and Visual Arts College	Dudley
Menzies High School	Sandwell
Bristnall Hall Technology College	Sandwell

	Location
Holly Lodge Foundation High School College of Science	Sandwell
Smith's Wood Sports College	Solihull
Grace Academy Solihull	Solihull
Darlaston Community Science College	Walsall
Willenhall School Sports College	Walsall
All Saints Catholic High School	Knowsley
Alsop High School Technology and Applied Learning Specialist College	Liverpool
Broadgreen International School, A Technology College	Liverpool
Harper Green School	Bolton
Hayward School	Bolton
North Manchester High School for Boys	Manchester
Cedar Mount High School	Manchester
The Hathershaw College of Technology and Sport	Oldham
Buile Hill High School	Salford
PEMBEC High School	Wigan
Hesketh Fletcher CofE High School, Atherton	Wigan
The Foulstone School	Barnsley
Willowgarth High School	Barnsley
Northcliffe School	Doncaster
Hatfield Visual Arts College	Doncaster
Mexborough School	Doncaster
Clifton: A Community Arts School	Rotherham
The City School	Sheffield
Yewlands School Technology College	Sheffield
Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College	Bradford
Wyke Manor School	Bradford
Rhodesway School	Bradford
Nab Wood School	Bradford
Parklands Girls' High School	Leeds
All Saints College	Newcastle upon Tyne
Norham Community Technology College	North Tyneside
Castle View School A Specialist Business and Enterprise College	Sunderland
Henbury School	City of Bristol
Monks Park School	City of Bristol
Bridge Learning Campus—Secondary	City of Bristol
The City Academy Bristol	City of Bristol
King's Manor School, Specialist Sports College	Middlesbrough
Kingswood College of Arts	City of Kingston upon Hull
Archbishop Thurstan Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	City of Kingston upon Hull
The Lindsey School and Community Arts College	North East Lincolnshire
Matthew Humberstone Church of England School	North East Lincolnshire
Oasis Academy Wintringham	North East Lincolnshire
Parkside Community School	Derbyshire
Shirebrook School	Derbyshire
Springwell Community School	Derbyshire
Bern rose School	City of Derby
Royal Manor Arts College	Dorset
Wellfield Community School a Specialist Maths and Computing College	Durham
Eastbourne Technology College	East Sussex
Patcham High School	Brighton and Hove
Oak Farm Community School	Hampshire
Mayfield School	Portsmouth
St. Luke's CofE VA Secondary School	Portsmouth
Woodlands Community College	Southampton
Riverside Business and Enterprise College	Leicester City
Fullhurst Community College	Leicester City
Belgrave High School	Staffordshire
Berry Hill High School and Sports College	Stoke on Trent
Churchfields School	Swindon
Ryeish Green School	Wokingham
Coleridge Community College	Cambridgeshire
St. Neots Community College	Cambridgeshire
Thomas Clarkson Community College	Cambridgeshire
Sir William Stanier Community School	Cheshire
Paignton Community and Sports College	Torbay
St. Peter's Church of England and Specialist Arts College	Essex
Sawyers Hall College	Essex
The Grays School Media Arts College	Thurrock
The Gateway Academy	Thurrock
Baxter College	Worcestershire
Swanley Technology College	Kent
Hartsdown Technology College	Kent
The Towers School	Kent
Wilmington Enterprise College	Kent
Sittingbourne Community College	Kent
Minster College	Kent
St. George's Church of England Foundation School	Kent
Pent Valley School	Kent
Brockhill Park Performing Arts College	Kent
The Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School	Medway
Chapter School	Medway
City of Preston High School	Lancashire
Skerton Community High School	Lancashire
Fleetwood Sports College	Lancashire
Sir John Thursby Community College	Lancashire
Portland School	Nottinghamshire
The Queen Elizabeth's (1561) Endowed School	Nottinghamshire
Top Valley School and Engineering College	City of Nottingham
Redruth School: a Technology College	Cornwall
Thorncliffe School—A Specialist Sports College	Cumbria
Southfield Technology College	Cumbria
Brockworth Enterprise School	Gloucestershire
The Aveland High School	Lincolnshire
Birkbeck School and Community Arts College	Lincolnshire
Saint Bede's Catholic Science College	Lincolnshire
Smithdon High School	Norfolk
Marshland High School	Norfolk
Kingsthorpe College	Northamptonshire
Hirst High School	Northumberland
Robert Blake Science College	Somerset
Chilton Trinity Technology College	Somerset
Chantry High School and Sixth Form Centre	Suffolk
Manhood Community College	West Sussex

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables' database.

Serlby Park School: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what capital funding bids submitted to his Department by Nottinghamshire County Council in the last 12 months contained reference to Serlby Park 3-18 school. [292167]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* Nottinghamshire county council has not submitted any bids for funding a three to 18 school at Serlby Park. Most capital funding is allocated by means of a formula rather than through a bidding process. Decisions about priorities for investment are rightly matters for local determination.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the standards of *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics teaching for students studying for the diploma qualification. [291506]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not routinely make assessments of standards in English and mathematics teaching. The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills makes these assessments. The recent Ofsted report, "Implementation of 14-19 reforms, including the introduction of Diplomas", published on 17 August 2009, includes an evaluation of the first year of teaching of functional skills in mathematics and English as part of the Diploma.

The Department has substantially increased its work for the 2009/10 academic year with schools and local authorities, through a programme of support provided by National Strategies, to support the teaching and learning of functional skills across all of the curriculum, and act on the findings of the Ofsted report. As part of offering this support, NS and LSIS work continually at a local level to assess training requirements in the light of readiness for functional skills teaching in local schools, colleges and other post-16 institutions.

Sure Start Programme: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of funding for Sure Start *(a)* children's centres and *(b)* local programmes has been retained by each local authority in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what the total (i) revenue and (ii) capital allocation was in each case. [290452]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authorities do not retain unspent allocation of the Sure Start, early years and childcare grant (SSEYCG). The Department claws back any unspent allocation of revenue following receipt of audited statements of expenditure. The Department also does this for capital allocations but offers carry-forward of unspent capital each year until the end of March 2011 (2010-11 financial year).

The information requested has been placed in the Libraries. The Sure Start Local Programme (SSLP) and children's centres allocations for each local authority for the last three years are given in table 1. The spend by local authorities for the last three years for which figures are available are given in table 2.

Teachers: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average full-time equivalent gross pay of teachers was in schools in Hemsworth constituency in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1997. [288810]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available at the constituency level but can be provided by local authority where the data source is considered to be of sufficient quality.

Information on the average salary of teachers is available only for full-time regular qualified teachers in service in local authority maintained schools. The following table provides this information for Wakefield local authority in both cash and real terms in each year, March 1997 to 2007, the latest year for which information is available by local authority.

Average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained schools, March 1997 to 2007, Wakefield local authority

	Gross average salary (£)[1]	
	Actual	*Real terms*[2]
1997	22,100	28,000
1998	22,800	28,100
1999	23,600	28,600
2000	24,800	29,400
2001	26,800	31,300
2002	27,700	31,600
2003	29,500	32,700
2004	30,700	33,100
2005	31,700	33,200
2006[3]	32,800	33,700
2007[3]	33,900	33,900

[1] Gross salary of teachers of all grades including allowances.
[2] Adjusted using HM Treasury GDP deflator.
[3] Provisional.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £100.
Source:
Database of Teacher records

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many entrants to postgraduate certificate of education courses had a lower second class degree or better in the last year for which figures are available; [288244]

(2) how many entrants to postgraduate certificate of education courses had a third class or lower classification degree in the last year for which figures are available. [288245]

Mr. Coaker: The following tables show the number of first year trainees in 2006-07 by the classification of their first degree for:

1. Postgraduate ITT trainees
2. Employment Based Routes (EBR) trainees.

Table 1: Proportion of postgraduate trainees in their first year of mainstream ITT courses by classification of first degree 2006-07, England

	First year ITT entrants	
Classification of first UK degree	*Number*	*Percentage*
Total with 2:2 and above	20,660	92.6
Third	760	3.4
Pass	440	2.0
Unclassified	460	2.1
Total	22,320	100.0

Notes:
1. First year entrants to post graduate ITT courses. Includes Universities and other Higher Education Institutions, SCITT and Open University. Excludes employment based routes and cases where QTS was granted without a course in ITT.
2. Classification of first UK degree only.
3. Unclassified includes cases where degree class was undefined or unknown.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles

Table 2: Proportion of postgraduate trainees in their first year of employment based routes to ITT by classification of first degree 2006-07, England

	First year ITT entrants	
Classification of first UK degree	*Number*	*Percentage*
Total with 2:2 and above	4,630	88.6
Third	260	4.9
Pass	340	6.5
Unclassified	0	0.0
Total	5,230	100.0

Notes:
1. Excludes Universities and other Higher Education Institutions, SCITT and Open University and cases where QTS was granted without a course in ITT.
2. Classification of first UK degree only.
3. Unclassified includes cases where degree class was undefined or unknown.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many entrants for B.Ed degree courses had no A level passes, excluding equivalents, in the last year for which figures are available. [288341]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is given in the table and shows the number and percentage of entrants to undergraduate initial teacher training (ITT) courses by their highest qualification on entry. Qualifications included in the "Other" category might be higher than A/AS level and can include trainees who have A/AS levels. Information relating specifically to entrants with no qualifications at advanced level is therefore not available.

Undergraduate trainees represent 24 per cent. of trainees on mainstream ITT courses.

Undergraduate entrants to ITT courses by their highest qualification on entry 2006-07—England

	Mainstream		*Employment based*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Highest qualification on entry:				
With A or AS	4,960	63.6	0	0.0
GNVQ	[1]—	[1]—	0	0.0
Access	660	8.5	0	0.0
Other	2,180	27.9	170	100.0
Total	7,790	100.0	170	100.0

[1] Less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5.

Notes:
1. Mainstream includes Universities and other higher education institutes and Open University, but excludes Employment based ITT (EBITT).
2. EBITT includes trainees through the Registered Teacher programme.

Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average number of hours of continuous professional development training was received by teachers in the last year for which figures are available. [288345]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not collect these data in the manner requested centrally. However, the Teachers' Workloads Diary survey, managed until recently by the Office of Manpower Economics and funded by the Department, does include time spent on training and/or development activity, including INSET, peer observation or being mentored. The survey results reflect each individual's definition of continuing professional development (CPD) and, as such, will not necessarily record many activities that would constitute CPD such as coaching or reading teaching and learning material.

The latest results from that survey, for 2008, showed that the average time per week spent on this activity was:

	Hours
Primary:	
Heads	3.2
Deputy Heads	2.3
Classroom teachers	1.4
Secondary:	
Heads	3.2
Deputies	1.7
Heads of department	1.1
Classroom teachers	0.8

The full report is available at:

www.ome.uk.com/downloads/2008%20Teachers%20Report%20FINAL.pdf.

JUSTICE

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many files were destroyed by the fire at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal Centre in London on 19 March 2009; how many such files have yet to be reconstructed; how many cases have been delayed as a consequence of that fire; and when he expects those cases to have been determined. [290262]

Bridget Prentice: On 18 March 2009, 127 Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) files and 22 Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) files were completely destroyed by fire at the AIT's centre, Field House.

All of the SIAC files have been reconstructed. All the 127 AIT files were awaiting decisions from the Court of Appeal. Of these, 12 have been reconstructed and remitted back to the AIT. Administrative staff have requested the necessary papers from the parties in order for these cases to be listed for hearings. A further 26 have been completed because they were withdrawn at the Court of Appeal or Court of Appeal judgments not in favour of the appellant have been delivered. The Court of Appeal has now returned from summer recess and it is expected that the remainder of these will be cleared.

There were also 141 files, at various stages of the AIT reconsideration process, that were damaged by water and smoke and these were sent to a file recovery centre. On return, the files were checked and any papers that were illegible were re-requested from parties. All these cases are now progressing through the appeal system.

A total of 128 AIT cases were adjourned immediately after the fire but hearings resumed a week later at an alternative venue. A total of 93 have already been heard and determined, four have been heard and are awaiting determination, 24 were heard in September and will be determined in October, two will be heard and determined in October and five will be heard and determined in November. These timescales reflect the time needed, in some cases, to reconstruct damaged appeal files. The SIAC cases have not been subject to any delay.

Priority has been given to High Court Review Filter Applications (where a party is dissatisfied with the first appeal decision) with the aim that parties received decisions within 10 days. Here, the impact of the fire was compounded by unexpected increases in workload. All of these cases have now been cleared.

The files destroyed and damaged represent a small number compared with over 1,000 which were salvaged from Field House. A huge contingency operation where administrative staff and members of the judiciary worked closely together ensured that hearings were resumed and the business relocated with a minimum inconvenience and delay to customers.

Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been for offences related to female genital mutilation in each of the last five years; and what steps he plans to take to increase the prosecution rate for such offences. [291551]

Claire Ward: There have been no prosecutions or convictions for female genital mutilation (FGM) reported to the Ministry of Justice up to the end of 2007. Data for 2008 will be available towards the end of 2009.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 is intended to help to prevent this unacceptable practice from happening in the first place. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it is doing this. A range of guidance has been issued to heighten awareness among all relevant professionals. The Home Office issued guidance to all chief officers of police in England and Wales on the investigation of cases of FGM when the Act came into force in 2004. The Association of Chief Police Officers incorporated FGM in guidance for police forces which was revised and reissued in 2008. The Crown Prosecution Service included FGM in its Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence, which was disseminated to all prosecutors by the end of 2008. This was accompanied by a modular training package which has been rolled out to all CPS areas.

The Home Office chairs a cross-governmental steering group on FGM which brings together officials from across Government and key voluntary organisations and service providers. The group's aim is to develop actions and practical tools to assist victims and potential victims of FGM and to provide a co-ordinated response to tackling the issue. As part of this work, the Under-Secretary of State for Crime Reduction, my hon. Friend the Member for Tynemouth (Mr. Campbell) announced on 24 September the appointment of a cross-Government co-ordinator to provide a single point of contact for work on this issue.

Land: Registration

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many claims there were to the Land Registry Indemnity Fund by nature of claim in each of the last four years; how many such claims were paid; what estimate he has made of the monetary value of such claims by nature of claim; and if he will make a statement; [290118]

(2) how many complaints were received by the Land Registry regarding errors in or omissions from register entries in respect of indemnity claims in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement; [290119]

(3) with reference to the table on page 44 of the Land Registry Annual Report 2007-08, what criteria apply to the calculation of substantive loss in respect of Land Registry indemnity claims; and if he will make a statement; [290137]

(4) with reference to the Land Registry Annual Report 2007-08, if he will publish an updated version of the table on page 44 providing the same information in respect of indemnity claims for 2008-09. [290142]

Mr. Wills: The Land Registration Act 2002 makes provision for the payment of statutory compensation or 'indemnity' where a mistake arises, which includes not only mistakes in the register itself but also, for example, mistakes in official copies of documents referred to in the register or mistakes in official searches of the register. The Land Registration Act 2002 sets out the circumstances in which the register can be altered so as to put right a mistake and also the circumstances when this is not possible. Mistakes in the register can result in losses to those affected by them whether or not the register is subsequently altered and Land Registry will where appropriate pay indemnity to compensate anyone who suffers loss as a result of the rectification of the register (where the register is altered to correct the mistake and this prejudicially affects a registered title), or as a result of a mistake in the register that could have been rectified but for some reason (for example because land is in the possession of an innocent registered proprietor) was not.

The following tables show details of the number and nature of claims over the last four years. The number of claims received, paid and monetary value of such claims has been recorded from 2006-07. Prior to that date, it was not Land Registry practice to record either the number of claims received or the amount claimed. When the number of claims received is fewer in number than the total this is because a claim is not necessarily paid in the year in which it is received.

The tables include information on indemnity claims as a result of errors and omissions in register entries. The question of the number of complaints about this type of error is a different issue. It does not necessarily follow that a complaint will be received when a mistake resulting in a payment has been made or, conversely, that a payment will be made when a complaint is received. Land Registry has specific complaint category records from 2008-09. During this period 182 complaints were received about this type of mistake.

Land Registry does not itself calculate the value of an indemnity claim, so there are no criteria as such to apply to the calculation of substantive loss in this respect. Instead, the claimant or their legal representative submits a claim based on the value of the loss (including any legal or other costs) caused by the mistake in the register and Land Registry considers the claim in the light of the individual facts and in accordance with the provisions of the Land Registration Act 2002. It may follow that a claim is reduced through negotiation or because, for example, there has been negligence or 'lack of proper care' on the part of the claimant. In some cases a professional valuation is obtained in order to quantify the value of a claim. In the absence of agreement, the Land Registration Act 2002 entitles a claimant to seek a determination from the court as to any question of entitlement and the amount of any such indemnity.

Land Registry may also pay indemnity in respect of legal and other costs, where appropriate.

Land Registry's Annual Report always contains an Indemnity Report. The table for the year 2008-09 is within the recently published report and a copy is also set out as follows:

Indemnity report for 2005-06

Nature of claim	*Number of claims paid*	*Substantive loss paid (£)*	*Legal costs paid (£)*	*Percentage of total*
Extent of registered titles	487	1,696,162.58	1,272,091.06	21.03
Errors in/omissions from register entries	181	533,582.82	328,818.11	6.11
Sundry plans errors	52	15,617.81	117,589.04	0.94
Fraud and forgery	31	8,632,656.95	1,201,960.78	69.67
Official inspections of Title Plans	18	26,065.14	28,276.03	0.38
Bankruptcy Errors	3	34,379.30	0	0.24
Official Searches	9	16,503.55	4,580.50	0.15
Office Copies	5	700	1,359.70	0.01
Errors in SIMS	36	73,441.06	24,368.48	0.69
Errors in filed extracts	3	195	160	0.003
Lost documents/administrative errors	169	43,796.61	63,650.53	0.76
Land Charges Errors	3	46	41.12	0.0006
Total	997	11,073,146.82	3,042,895.35	—
Gross Payment made (£)			14,116,042.17	—
Less sums recovered under the Land Registry's statutory right of recourse (£)	—	—	178,809.97	—
Net Indemnity Paid (£)	—	—	13,937,232.20	—

Indemnity report for 2006-07

Nature of claim	*Number of claims paid*	*Number of claims received*	*Amount claimed (£)*	*Substantive loss paid (£)*	*Legal costs paid (£)*	*Percentage of total*
Extent of registered titles	331	197	7,250,189	1,207,312.23	652,088.67	35.39
Errors in/omissions from register entries	152	104	881,952	530,203.50	143,185.43	12.82
Sundry plans errors	45	39	82,553	172,246.99	58,758.08	4.40
Fraud and forgery	24	31	3,282,104	2,001,137.11	122,359.23	40.42
Official inspections of Title Plans	16	14	74,313	52,454.99	62,653.89	2.19
Bankruptcy Errors	0	0	0	0	0	0
Official Searches	8	8	19,303	4,280.36	5,033.89	0.18
Office Copies	9	9	1,041	110	1,230.72	0.03
Errors in SIMS	19	20	241,227	3,392.42	15,152.53	0.35
Errors in filed extracts	18	23	5,795	1,062.00	8,125.95	0.17
Lost documents/administrative errors	249	220	349,468	113,781.73	98,040.29	4.03
Land Charges Errors	2	0	0	806.50	0	0.02
Total	873	665	12,187,947	4,086,787.83	1,166,628.68	100
Gross Payment made (£)	—	—	—	—	5,253,416.51	—
Less sums recovered under the Land Registry's statutory right of recourse (£)	—	—	—	—	654,715.36	—
Net Indemnity Paid (£)	—	—	—	—	4,598,701.15	—

Indemnity report for 2007-08

Nature of claim	*Number of claims paid*	*Number of claims received*	*Amount claimed (£)*	*Substantive loss paid (£)*	*Legal costs paid (£)*	*Percentage of total*
Extent of registered titles	360	242	1,216,972	750,244.31	879,272.43	17.89
Errors in/omissions from register entries	148	119	3,392,744	1,795,681.27	326,818.24	23.30
Sundry plans errors	39	34	30,705	13,611.23	22,747.87	0.40
Fraud and forgery	60	53	6,335,864	3,429,131.38	524,246.64	43.39
Official inspections of Title Plans	11	10	36,312	20,000	8,579.83	0.31
Bankruptcy Errors	1	1	18,629	0	18,628.94	0.20
Official Searches	15	10	895,421	421,557.93	31,597.14	4.97
Office Copies	22	26	41,006	875.35	3,859.20	0.05
Errors in SIMS	33	21	39,620	1,084.30	30,029.54	0.34
Errors in filed extracts	51	38	14,852	89,651.52	29,294.07	1.31
Lost documents/administrative errors	331	308	723,486	40,805.41	157,113.50	2.17
Land Charges Errors	1	0	0	450,000	65,388.75	5.66
Total	1072	862	12,745,611	7,012,642.70	2,097,576.15	100
Gross Payment made (£)	—	—	—	—	9,110,218.85	—
Less sums recovered under the Land Registry's statutory right of recourse (£)		—	—	—	72,535.89	—
Net Indemnity Paid (£)	—	—	—	—	9,037,682.96	—

Indemnity report for 2008-09

Nature of claim	*Number of claims paid*	*Number of claims received*	*Amount claimed (£)*	*Substantive loss paid (£)*	*Legal costs paid (£)*	*Percentage of total*
Extent of registered titles	431	316	3,240,957	1,018,056.69	713,363.13	17.21
Errors in/omissions from register entries	175	144	3,999,026	1,994,887.52	433,617.33	24.14
Sundry plans errors	45	36	116,142	340,128.92	46,290.67	3.84
Fraud and forgery	62	82	9,237,179	4,257,074.48	815,038.95	50.42
Official inspections of Title Plans	18	14	88,400	13,358.00	19,851.29	0.33
Bankruptcy Errors	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Official Searches	14	10	9,718	431.94	4,218.95	0.05
Office Copies	22	18	7,531	707.85	15,785.28	0.16
Errors in SIMS	40	30	150,877	74,399.53	38,376.27	1.12
Errors in filed extracts	62	51	30,289	12,380.83	19,250.39	0.31
Lost documents/administrative errors	495	473	634,677	125,434.63	116,292.74	2.40
Land Charges Errors	0	2	1,559	0	0	0
Total	1364	1176	17,516,353	7,836,860.39	2,222,085.00	100
Gross Payment made (£)	—	—	—	—	10,058,945.39	—
Less sums recovered under the Land Registry's statutory right of recourse (£)	—	—	—	—	89,235.00	—
Net Indemnity Paid (£)	—	—	—	—	9,969,710.39	—

Magistrates Courts: Leicestershire

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which magistrates courts in Leicestershire he proposes to *(a)* close and *(b)* reduce the sitting hours of in the next (i) 12 and (ii) 24 months. [288373]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. and learned Member to the written ministerial statement made earlier today setting out the Government's plans to consult on the closure of a number of under used magistrates courts. Many of the courts we are consulting on do not have adequate facilities for victims and witnesses or other court users. None of the courts we are consulting on are located within Leicestershire.

HMCS must keep the level of magistrates courts sitting commensurate to the amount of work—local management decisions, involving local judiciary, including magistrates, and staff will be taken regularly to ensure that that is the case. Local discussions are currently under way to determine the sitting levels for 2010-11—these discussions have not concluded and no proposals have therefore been made yet.

HMCS regularly reviews the use and utilisation of its estate. Where there is insufficient work and alternative facilities within a reasonable travelling distance we will hold consultations to seek views on whether to close a court. We will make a decision on whether to close a court after considering the responses to consultations.

Offences Against Children: Convictions

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted for offences related to viewing child abuse images in each of the last five years. [291748]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child pornography of taking, permitting to be taken, distributing, publishing or possession of indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in table 1 as follows. It is not possible to separately identify computer based offences from other offences related to indecent photographs.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child abuse, from 2003 to 2007 is shown in table 2 as follows. There is no specific offence of "child abuse" therefore statistics are only provided where the age of the victim can be identified as a child from the description of the offence. Furthermore the term "child abuse" describes harm caused to a child arising from emotional, physical, sexual abuse or neglect caused by a parent, guardian, carer, or stranger. A number of other offences such as offences against the person including physical assault may frequently be used by the police to charge offenders.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004. Table 2 includes, for 2003 only, comparable offences under the Sexual Offences Act 1956.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of November 2009.

Table 1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child pornography[1] from 2003 to 2007[2, 3]

Offence Description	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Take, permit to be taken, or to make distribute or publish indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children	1,048	978	958	768	782
Possession of an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child	239	184	196	166	185

[1] Offences under the Protection of Children Act 1978, section 1 and section 6 as amended by the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, section 84 & Criminal Justice & Court Services Act 2000 S.41(1); Offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec. 160 as amended by the Criminal Justice & Court Services Act 2000.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the more severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence & Analysis Unit.

Table 2: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences relating to child abuse, 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004[3] S.5	Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person	[4]—	[4]—	—	2	6
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 S.1	Cruelty or neglect of children	494	540	482	488	493
Offences against the Person Act 1861 S.27	Abandoning children under 2 years	1	—	—	2	1
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.1	Rape of a female aged under 16	[6]254	275	234	219	236
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.1	Rape of a male aged under 16	[6]29	28	32	15	23
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S. 5	Rape of a female child under 13 by a male	[4]—	5	58	85	91
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S. 5	Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	[4]—	1	14	32	37
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.7[5]	Sexual assault of a female child under 13	[4]—	34	174	243	273
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.8(1)(2)(1)(3), S.10(1a,b,ci)(3), S.9(1a,b,cii)(2)(3), S.10(1,a,b,c(ii)(2)(3)	Sexual activity involving a child	[4]—	20	127	185	190
Sexual Offences Act 2003[5] S.16(1ei,2-5),(1eii,2-5), S.17(1ei,2-5)(1eii,2-5), S.18(1fi,2-5), S19(1ei,2-5)	Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with children	[4]—	3	14	16	15
Total		778	906	1,135	1,287	1,365

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the more severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5 came into force on 21 March 2005.

[4] Not applicable.

[5] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[6] Sexual Offences Act 1956, S.1, as amended by the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994, S.142—comparable offences to S.1 Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence & Analysis Unit

Offences Against Children: Sentencing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum length of sentence handed down for offences relating to viewing child abuse images was in each of the last five years. [291749]

Claire Ward: The information available is shown in the following table.

Minimum and maximum length of immediate custodial sentence handed down for offences relating to viewing child abuse images[1], 2003-07

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Total sentenced	1,261	1,140	1,129	948	944
Total immediate custody	640	595	561	392	404
Maximum (Years)	9	7	IPP	IPP	IPP

Minimum and maximum length of immediate custodial sentence handed down for offences relating to viewing child abuse images[1], 2003-07

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Minimum (Weeks)	4	2	4	4	8

[1] Section 1 (1) of the Protection of Children Act 1978, Section 160 (1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

There is no specific offence of viewing child abuse images, this table covers a wider range of offences and it is not solely based on viewing child abuse images. These data are presented on the principal offence basis. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence, the principal offence is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed. Where the same sentence has been imposed for two or more offences, the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

There are two main offences in this area:

Under Section 1 (1) of the "Protection of Children Act 1978" it is an offence for a person:

(a) to take, or permit to be taken, or to make any indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child; or

(b) to distribute or show such indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs; or

(c) to have in his possession such indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, with a view to their being distributed or shown by himself or others; or

(d) to publish or cause to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that the advertiser distributes or shows such indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, or intends to do so.

These offences carry a 'maximum 10-year prison sentence'.

Section 160 (1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 makes it an offence for a person to have any indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child in his possession.

This offence carries a maximum prison term of five years.

A sentence of imprisonment for public protection can be given for a specified sexual (or violent offence) that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years or over; the relevant offences are set out in schedule 15 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and include an offence under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978. These sentences ensure that serious offenders will not be released from prison unless their level of risk to the public is assessed by the Parole Board as manageable in the community. If the level of risk cannot be assessed as manageable, they will not be released. An offence under section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 may attract an extended sentence for public protection. Such a sentence requires the offender to be on licence and under supervision for a longer period for the purposes of public protection.

Prison Visitors: Expenditure

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on *(a)* the administration of and *(b)* expenditure by the Assisted Prison Visits Unit in each of the last three years; and whether those costs were included in the revenue costs of his Department. [291887]

Maria Eagle: The administration expenditure for the assisted prison visits unit (APVU) is as follows:

	£
2006-07	697,000
2007-08	693,000
2008-09	710,000

The gross expenditure by the assisted prison visits unit for giving assistance to prisoners' visitors is as follows:

	£
2006-07	1,941,000
2007-08	2,170,000
2008-09	2,171,000

The total expenditure for APVU has been included in the revenue costs of the Ministry of Justice for 2008-09 and 2007-08, and the Home Office for 2006-07.

The assisted prison visits scheme provides help with travel and where appropriate accommodation expenses to prisoners' close relatives, partners or a friend (where they are the only visitor). In all cases the visitor must be in receipt of specified benefits or on a low income.

Prisoners Release: Mentally Ill

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mentoring programmes are available for people with *(a)* mental health problems and *(b)* learning disabilities who leave custody; and if he will make a statement. [290014]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not keep any central record of mentoring programmes for people leaving custody with mental health problems or learning disabilities. Such schemes are usually local initiatives started by voluntary agencies working with their local prison and other services.

Prisoners: Death

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have died from cancer while in custody in each year since 2001; [291956]

(2) how many inmates have died in prison from natural causes in each year since 2002. [291957]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the number of people known to have died from cancer while in prison custody in England and Wales in each year since 2001.

	Number of known cancer related deaths in prison custody in England and Wales
2001	6
2002	7
2003	17
2004	21
2005	19
2006	18
2007	14
2008	22

The number known to be cancer related are shown in this table and refer to primary cause of death but exclude cases where cancer played a secondary or tertiary role. In later years the numbers should be interpreted as provisional, as they may change following inquests or as new information emerges.

The following table gives the total number of deaths from natural causes in prison custody in England and Wales since 2002.

	Total number of deaths from natural causes in prison custody in England and Wales
2002	66
2003	86
2004	102
2005	88
2006	83
2007	92
2008	98

Every death in prison is a tragedy, and affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers, the Ministry of Justice and NOMS are committed to learning from each death and to reducing the number of such incidents. Deaths in prisons are among the most scrutinised of all incidents and each case is subject to a police investigation and independent investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman. Robust systems are in place for monitoring deaths and learning from them.

Prisoners: Foreigners

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Romanian and *(b)* Bulgarian nationals have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment in each of the last three years. [291830]

Claire Ward: The requested data are not available as the nationality of those sentenced is not recorded on the Court Proceedings database. Data on the number of Bulgarians and Romanian nationals currently in custody can be found in the Table 5 of the June 2009 'Population in Custody' bulletin published by the Ministry of Justice, following this link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The following table taken from the Offender Management Caseload Statistics shows the total number of Bulgarian and Romanian receptions for 2006 to 2008. The figures for 2006 are considerably lower because both these countries joined the EU in January 2007.

Receptions into prison establishments by nationality and sex, 2006-08

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
2006			
Bulgaria	29	13	42
Romania	255	35	290
2007			
Bulgaria	47	128	175
Romania	438	114	552
2008			
Bulgaria	40	133	173
Romania	749	122	871

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prisons: Private Sector

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to ensure that private sector prisons take action in response to criticisms contained in the reports on them by HM Inspector of Prisons. [291962]

Maria Eagle: Contracted Sector Prisons are subject to the same procedures as public sector prisons for HM Inspector of Prisons. Within three months of the publication of a report on any prison, the National Offender Management Service is required to develop and submit an action plan to HM Chief Inspector of Prisons. This plan will respond to every recommendation made in the report. After a further nine months this action plan is updated. Ministers approve both action plans. The action plans enable progress to be monitored.

Prisons: Television

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much HM Prison Service *(a)* spent on televisions in prisons in the last 12 months for which figures are available and *(b)* received from prisoners under contracts for television rental. [292515]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners have access to televisions in-cell as part of local incentives and earned privileges schemes. Prisoners can rent televisions for £1 per week. The revenue generated from this charge is used for the purchase of new and replacement televisions and to fund the switchover of the prison estate from analogue to digital television.

In the financial year 2008-09, HM Prison Service expenditure and rental income from prisoners in respect of in-cell TV is shown in the following table.

	£
Expenditure	2,311,000
Rental income from prisoners	2,135,000

Probation Officers

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of trainee probation officers expected to qualify in 2009 who will not find employment in the Probation Service. [290327]

Maria Eagle: There are currently 44 graduating TPOs in the national clearing house arrangements who have yet to receive offers of employment. A further 59 graduates have left the National Probation Service to take up posts elsewhere, or elected not to join the clearing house arrangements. 27 trainees have received training contract extensions and will not therefore qualify in 2009.

Probation: Costs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of probation facilities management contracts in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [290291]

Mr. Straw: The final cost of the fixed fee facilities management services for the Probation estate for 2008-09 and expected costs for 2009-10 are currently subject to commercial negotiations. Once the negotiations have concluded I will write to the hon. and learned Member setting out the costs.

Probation: Hertfordshire

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were referred to multi-agency public protection panels in Hertfordshire Probation Area in each of the last five financial years. [289342]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the total number of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) eligible offenders living in the community in Hertfordshire. The table also shows the number of eligible offenders who were managed at the higher MAPPA levels and who were considered by multi-agency public protection panels. Cases are referred to level 2 where the ongoing involvement of several agencies will be required to implement or monitor the risk management plan and to level 3 where more senior oversight is additionally required. The data are collated from those data prepared for Hertfordshire's MAPPA Annual Reports.

Hertfordshire	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total MAPPA eligible offenders	867	808	791	732	665
Level 2	[1]—	583	57	329	125
Level 3	113	112	31	45	14

[1] Not collected.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 October 2009

SCOTLAND

Outreach Service

9. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the House of Commons authorities on the production of the Outreach Service's publication entitled People and Parliament: connecting with communities. [292286]

Ann McKechin: I am aware of the project that the hon. Member refers to and welcome its aim to spread awareness of the work and relevance of Parliament. I am very happy to support this project and to encourage greater engagement between the public and this Parliament.

Power Stations

10. **Ms Katy Clark:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers on the siting of new coal-fired power stations in Scotland. [292287]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have had no discussions with Scottish Government Ministers about the siting of new coal-fired power stations in Scotland.

Identity Cards

11. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the *(a)* cost to the public purse of and *(b)* implementation of the national identity card scheme in Scotland. [292288]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have had no discussions with the First Minister on national identity cards.

Tourism

12. **Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent representations he has received on the effects of UK Government policies on tourism in Scotland. [292289]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has received no recent representations on this issue.

Manufacturing Sector

13. **Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent representations he has received on UK Government support for the Scottish manufacturing sector. [292290]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have had discussions with a range of stakeholders about support for the Scottish manufacturing sector.

Most recently, in September, I attended the Scottish engineering executive committee dinner in Glasgow and the Scotland Office, jointly with the David Hume institute, hosted a seminar bringing together key leaders in Government, industry and the university sector to discuss the opportunities and challenges for the high-tech engineering sector in Scotland.

Defence Establishments

14. **Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the future of defence establishments in Scotland. [292291]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on defence establishments given the many jobs they support in Scotland.

Glasgow Airport Rail Link

15. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Scottish Executive Ministers on the decision not to proceed with the Glasgow airport rail link. [292292]

Ann McKechin: I have had no such discussions with Scottish Ministers.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288745]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office spend using Royal Mail was £7,199 in 2007-08 and £13,476 in 2008-09. The Office was not required to top-up its franking machine in London during 2007-08, which significantly reduced the overall costs.

The Scotland Office also incurred Royal Mail costs of £6,718,002 in relation to the posting of candidates' free mailing and the delivery of poll cards for the Scottish Parliament election in 2007-08. In 2008-09 the Scotland office incurred Royal Mail postage costs for two Westminster by-elections totalling £147,475.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289606]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office encourages all staff to undertake learning and development activities. The majority of opportunities are provided through the Scottish Government and the Ministry of Justice; but where the training need is still not available within central Government, external training courses may be considered.

The Office does not maintain a central record of all training courses attended by staff. However, during the current financial year, the Office has incurred £12,164.94 in direct expenditure.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289971]

Ann McKechin: The tables show the Scotland Office spend on car hire, rail and air travel. The Office does not separately record the spend on hotels and restaurant meals.

Ministers

			£
	Car hire[1]	*Rail*	*Air*
2004-05	8,042	374	2,822
2005-06	16,559	1,223	5,509
2006-07	5,797	1,745	5,270
2007-08	14,237	1,358	7,518
2008-09	18,439	1,381	23,313

[1] This does not include the Government Car Service London costs for which I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 79WS.

Staff

			£
	Car hire	*Rail*	*Air*
2004-05	2,896	25,632	74,331
2005-06	4,051	32,244	73,431
2006-07	4,644	37,150	70,263
2007-08	3,549	31,100	56,946
2008-09	637	22,045	87,323

Holiday Accommodation: Taxation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Treasury Ministers on the effect of the abolition of furnished holiday lettings tax relief on tourism, rural areas and regional economies in Scotland. [293432]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with Treasury colleagues on a range of matters affecting Scotland.

Government will publish an impact assessment at pre-Budget report 2009 alongside draft legislation.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288951]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its final report, which can be found here:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A steering group has been established under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

CABINET OFFICE

2009 Edition of "Public Bodies"

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects to publish the 2009 edition of "Public Bodies". [289842]

Tessa Jowell: We expect to publish "Public Bodies 2009" early in the new year. Copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House and made available online.

Civil Servants

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information the Cabinet Office holds on the average turnover rate amongst civil servants in each *(a)* Government department and *(b)* executive agency. [290037]

Angela E. Smith: The Department does not hold data centrally on civil service average turnover rates among civil servants in each *(a)* Government Department and *(b)* Executive Agency.

Information on the number of leavers in the year to 31 March 2008 and the number of permanent staff as at 31 March 2008 by *(a)* Government Departments and *(b)* Executive Agency is collected by ONS as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey. A copy has been placed in the Library and is available at the following ONS webpage:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Civil Service: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to paragraph C. 76, page 242 of Budget 2009, if she will place in the Library a copy of the actuarial advice she received on the civil service pension scheme; and if she will make a statement. [289102]

Tessa Jowell: The projections underlying forecast expenditure for the civil service scheme reflect the actuarial assumptions set at the time of the last scheme valuation. A copy of the actuary's report of December 2007 is in the Library.

Glasgow

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether she plans to visit Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment. [288937]

Tessa Jowell: I have not visited Glasgow on official business during the summer adjournment.

Government Communication Network

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what the budget for *(a)* the Government Communication Network and *(b)* the Government Communication Group is for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11 and (iv) 2011-12; [242218]

(2) what the cost to the public purse of *(a)* the Government Communication Network and *(b)* the Government Communication Group was in each year for which figures are available. [242220]

Tessa Jowell: The budget for Government Communication Group for 2008-09 was £2.1 million, and is £2.1 million for 2009-10. The Cabinet Office has not yet finalised unit budgets for future financial years beyond this spending review period.

The group's remit includes improving professional capability of government communication, cross-departmental co-ordination and the customer service standard. The Government Communications Network is the mainly online community to share best practice and learning to communication staff across government. Its administrative support is provided through the Government Communication Group and its costs are not separately identified but included in the total figure.

Expenditure for the Government Communication Group was as follows:

	Expenditure (£)
2005-06	2,335,000
2006-07	2,407,000
2007-08	2,114,000
2008-09	1,813,000

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what *(a)* losses of information and *(b)* breaches of information security have been reported to her Department by other Government departments since June 2008. [288962]

Tessa Jowell: As required in the cross government data handling review and to facilitate greater openness and transparency of data security breaches, Departments are required to report on significant personal information security breaches in their annual resource accounts. The first summary reports by Departments were published in their annual resource accounts at the end of the 2007-08 reporting year and these have now been followed by the 2008-09 accounts. These reports are publicly available through departmental websites.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: Scotland

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Glasgow East constituency and *(b)* Scotland were in receipt of the (i) higher and (ii) lower rate of attendance allowance on the latest date for which figures are available. [290779]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The information is provided in the table:

The number of people in Glasgow East constituency and Scotland in receipt of higher and lower rate of attendance allowance at February 2009

	Lower rate	*Higher rate*
Glasgow East parliamentary constituency	1,290	2,050
Scotland	57,360	87,640

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of the lower or higher rate attendance allowance. Excludes people with an entitlement where payment has been suspended.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Pensioners: Poverty

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the number of pensioners living in poverty in East Dunbartonshire constituency. [292933]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of poverty, published in the households below average income series, only allows a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government Office Region level. Therefore, information for East Dunbartonshire constituency is not available.

Latest information for Scotland, Government Office Region, is based on three year averages and is provided in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Number of pensioners (thousands) falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, Scotland Government Office Region, 2005-06 to 2007-08

	Number
Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income	200,000
Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income	100,000
Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices	100,000

Social Fund: Glasgow

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 110WS, on the Discretionary Social Fund, for what reasons the changes to the Discretionary Social Fund were extended to Glasgow; and when she expects such an extension to end. [292915]

Helen Goodman: This change requires customers to be interviewed when they make a third or subsequent application for a crisis loan to cover living expenses (not including loans to cover the period before the customer receives their first payment of benefit or wages) in a rolling 12 month period.

This policy was extended to Glasgow in order to test the impact of this change in a large city environment; and to provide a comparison for Jobcentre Plus of the impact of interviewing a client on a third and subsequent crisis loan application in isolation from the combined measure being tested elsewhere. The testing in the two other areas—the East Midlands and South West Regions—included limiting the number of some crisis loan awards for living expenses to no more than three in 12 months.

We plan to rollout the changes nationally from the end of October 2009.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of whether the Chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission has a conflict of interest in relation to his role in the Equate Organisation. [288268]

Maria Eagle: The chair of the EHRC has declared his interests in relation to Equate and has organised his work in order to avoid a conflict of interest.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

India: Christianity

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to address the problems faced by Christians in Orissa state, India. [292760]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers expressed their concerns directly to the Indian government at the time the violence occurred in 2008. The Indian central government has since urged the state government of Orissa, who are responsible for law and order in the state under the Indian constitution, to prevent any further such incidents. It has also offered compensation and assistance to victims of communal violence in India, including in Orissa. The EU sent a fact-finding mission to Orissa in December 2008 (in which a member of our high commission participated). Our high commission subsequently discussed the findings of that visit with the Indian government in Delhi, and also raised the issue of minority rights in Orissa at the last EU-India Human Rights Dialogue meeting in February 2009. They will participate in a further EU visit to Orissa, which is currently planned for December.

Middle East

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on its policy priorities for *(a)* Gaza and *(b)* the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [292961]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are in regular contact with Israeli Ministers and officials. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minster spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu on 18 September. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Defence Minister Barak on 13 October.

These discussions cover a range of issues, including Israeli policies in the west bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza. Israel has legitimate concerns about its security and is right to demand the immediate release of Gilad Shalit. However, we are clear where we believe Israeli policies undermine hopes of peace and cause Palestinian civilians to suffer, notably through Israeli settlement building and movement restrictions in the west bank and east Jerusalem, and the restrictions on people and goods moving in and out of Gaza.

Morocco

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will instruct HM Ambassador in Rabat to investigate the abduction and torture by Moroccan security agents on 27 August 2009 of Ms Hassawina Nguyia, a 19 year-old Sahrawi woman who had previously been prevented from travelling to London to participate in the programme, Youths talk together about Western Sahara. [292829]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador to Morocco and his staff at the British embassy in Rabat have already sought clarification from the Moroccan Government regarding Ms Hassawina Nguyia and the other Sahrawi students due to take part in an event in Oxford in August this year.

The Government made clear to the Moroccan authorities that they regretted that the students had been prevented from travelling to the UK and that they were concerned by allegations of the disproportionate use of force.

The Moroccan Government have told us that they remain open to participating in future events organised by Talk Together and have investigated the allegations of mistreatment, which they deny. We will continue to seek further clarification from the Moroccan authorities.

Nigeria: Arms Control

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of developments in the case of a Ukrainian aircraft detained in Nigeria in June 2009 following reports it was carrying weapons and ammunition. [292076]

Chris Bryant: We were not previously aware of this incident, although it was reported by the BBC and in the African press over the summer. The hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) has been a member of the Commons Committee on Arms Export Controls since September 2008.

North Korea: Nuclear Power

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to place on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council the matter of the sale of nuclear technology by North Korea to the government of Burma. [291973]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of unconfirmed reports of nuclear cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) (North Korea) and Burma and continue to monitor the situation.

We are already working actively with international partners to ensure effective implementation of the robust package of sanctions imposed in the new UN Security Council Resolution 1874 on DPRK. This was agreed unanimously in June following the North Korean underground nuclear test of May 2009.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity and Passport Service: Complaints

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many complaints the Identity and Passport Service has received from *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* hon. Members in each of the last 12 months; [289520]

(2) how many complaints his Department has received from hon. Members in respect of the operation of the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last 12 months. [289521]

Mr. Woolas: The total number of complaints received during the period of June 2008-May 2009 are:

	Number
(a) Members of the public	7,137
(b) Hon. Members	707

The following table is the breakdown of the complaints received in each of the last 12 months:

	MP cases	Members of the public
June	89	859
July	99	891
August	79	724
September	66	570
October	71	488
November	47	563
December	49	358
January	29	386
February	39	522
March	58	650
April	42	567
May	39	559
Total	707	7,137

The Identity and Passport Service does not record complaints in the form of the operation of the service. However, hon. Members' complaints received in IPS are broken down into specific categories and the top three categories from June 2008-May 2009 are:

1. Customer care
2. Delay in processing postal application
3. IPS policy and procedures

It should also be noted that one letter can generate multiple categories.

Police: Drugs

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers have been tested for substance misuse in each of the last three years; and how many of those tests have recorded a positive result of substance misuse. [292441]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available centrally.

Vetting

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the barred status of an individual under the Vetting and Barring scheme is flagged on Criminal Records Bureau checks. [289340]

Mr. Hanson: In accordance with provisions of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the status of an individual under the Vetting and Barring Scheme will be included on an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure with effect from 12 October 2009.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the average duration of such leave has been. [290592]

Chris Mole: The following table provides details of the number of staff who took paternity leave in the last five years:

	Number
2004-05	117
2005-06	151
2006-07	154
2007-08	171
2008-09	152

The information in the above table does not include the Driving Standards Agency and Vehicle Certification Agency. Their information can be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs.

The average length of paternity leave is 8.4 days across Department for Transport Central and its Agencies.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what powers traffic officers have to *(a)* stop and *(b)* report speeding vehicles on motorways. [292430]

Chris Mole: Under the provisions of Part 1 of the Traffic Management Act (2004), Highways Agency Traffic Officers have the power to stop and direct traffic and pedestrians. This is the same power as a police constable has under sections 35, 37 and 163(1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Traffic Officers do not have an enforcement role and therefore do not stop vehicles for speeding. This responsibility remains with the police. Traffic Officers have a general instruction to report acts of a criminal nature to their control office for reporting to the police for possible prosecution. This is in line with their procedures for identifying when an incident should be police led.

Public Service Vehicles: Fuels

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress his Department has made in supporting the development of oxyhydrogen as an alternative fuel for public transport vehicles. [292905]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is committed to reducing emissions of both air quality pollutants and greenhouse gases from road transport, for example through setting of performance requirements for new vehicles. We welcome developments which assist in the meeting of those commitments, but do not generally provide support for development of specific technologies. Rather we leave industry free to develop the most effective technologies to meet the performance requirements we set.

We are not aware of anyone currently proposing the use of a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen gases as a fuel for road vehicles. We are, however, frequently approached by companies marketing "hydrogen on-demand" systems which produce small quantities of this gas mixture on-board the vehicle, to feed into the inlet air. This is claimed to reduce fuel consumption and emissions of pollutants.

As with other proprietary products claimed to deliver fuel consumption benefits we recommend that companies commission objective testing to support the benefits claimed in the marketing of their products. The Department has not, to date, seen any objective evidence that hydrogen on-demand systems for retrofitting to engines actually produce such benefits.

Railway Stations: Crimes of Violence

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many crimes of each type were recorded as having taken place *(a)* on trains and *(b)* at railway stations in each London borough in each of the last four years. [293052]

Chris Mole: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police,
25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN,
E-mail: parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Rolling Stock

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many of the 1,300 additional rail carriages announced in the 2007 Rail White Paper will be allocated to each rail operator. [289496]

Chris Mole: So far there have been 543 new rail carriages ordered by the following Train Operators.

TOC	*Type*	*Class*	*No of Vehicles*
Southern	EMU - DV	377	48
London Midland	EMU	350/2	148
London Midland	DMU	172	69
Chiltern	DMU	172	8
Southern	EMU -DV	377	44
Virgin West Coast	EMU	390	106
NXEA	EMU	379	120

On 23 July, the Government announced a major new electrification programme which radically affects the requirements for train rolling stock over the next decade. In particular, there will be far less need for diesel trains and a greater requirement for electric trains. The Department will publish a new rolling stock plan in the autumn, setting out a revised strategy.

JUSTICE

Bankruptcy

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many UK *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals filed for bankruptcy in the financial year 2008-09. [289484]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of insolvency and bankruptcy petitions issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales during 2008-09. The Ministry of Justice does not hold corresponding statistics for Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Insolvency and bankruptcy petitions filed in England and Wales, 2008-09

	Number
Company winding up	12,966
Creditors bankruptcy	20,442
Debtors bankruptcy	59,453

Statistics on insolvency and bankruptcy petitions are published in a quarterly National Statistics bulletin "Company winding up and bankruptcy petition statistics" which can also be found on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/companywindingupandbankruptcy.htm

The Ministry of Justice statistics do not indicate the actual number of company winding-up orders and bankruptcy orders during a particular period. These statistics are published by the Insolvency Service and can be found on their website at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm

Data Protection

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance the Court Service has issued on the practice of file-sealing in cases involving alleged breaches of *(a)* privacy and *(b)* duty of confidentiality. [292089]

Bridget Prentice: I am told there has been no guidance issued by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) nor any process that would involve the courts in file-sealing. I have also been informed that HMCS does not hold any information about Privacy or duty of confidentiality cases.

Divorce

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of decrees absolute granted in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; [292372]

(2) how many divorces his Department recorded centrally in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [292373]

Bridget Prentice: The estimated number of decrees absolute granted is shown in Table 5.5 of Judicial and Court Statistics 2008. A copy of this Command Paper (CM7697) was laid before Parliament on 24 September 2009 and is also available in the Libraries of the House. This is also available online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

A central record of decrees absolute is kept by the Principal Registry of the Family Division. The information on the central record is compiled by Office of National Statistics (ONS) upon receiving notification of decrees absolute from the courts, and is then sent to the Principal Registry of the Family Division.

The provisional figures for the number of decrees absolute granted each year are shown in the following table.

	HMCS/MOJ figures	*ONS/Central index figures*
2005	142,367	141,750
2006	133,026	132,562
2007	129,146	128,534
2008	122,861	[1]93,100

[1] Up to 3rd quarter 2008

Note:

These figures include both decrees absolute and decrees of nullity. The ONS figures for 2007 and are provisional. The ONS figures for 2008 are provisional, rounded to three significant figures and cover the first three quarters of 2008 only.

ONS figures can be found at:

Table 1: Divorces: Petitions filed and decree granted, available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14124

Annual Reference Volume: Marriage, divorce and adoption statistics (series FM2 no. 34), available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/FM2no34/FM2_No34.pdf

Population Trends 137, Table 2.1: Vital statistics summary.

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/PopTrends137web.pdf

Legal Aid

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many legal aid lawyers dealing with immigration and asylum cases there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* East Devon constituency in each of the last 10 years; [292335]

(2) how many legal aid lawyers dealing with *(a)* housing cases, *(b)* employment cases and *(c)* family cases there were in (i) England, (ii) Devon and (iii) East Devon in each of the last 10 years. [292439]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is currently being collated. Some information that addresses these questions is held by the Legal Services Commission, but not in a form which can immediately be used to answer the questions. I will write to the hon. Member once we have the information requested.

Legal Aid: Rural Areas

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what schemes his Department has in place to ensure that those living in rural or isolated areas have access to legal aid lawyers. [292438]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Service Commission (LSC) regularly monitors access to specialist legal advice. Where particular geographical access issues have been identified, the LSC aims to fill gaps through interim bid rounds. In addition, as part of the impact assessment of all policy changes the LSC carries out rural proofing.

The LSC is also establishing a number of Community Legal Advice Networks in rural locations which will offer integrated advice services, including specialist legal advice in debt, employment, welfare, community care and housing. Clients will be able to obtain face to face advice on tackling their civil legal problems in one or more easily accessible sources.

In addition, the LSC runs the Community Legal Advice helpline (0845 345 4 345) in England and Wales, which provides specialist advice to people who live on a low income or benefits by the telephone on debt, housing, employment, welfare benefits and tax credits, education and family matters. Last year the Community Legal Advice helpline dealt with over 335,000 cases.

Vexatious Litigants

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to additional restrictions on the ability of people who have been declared vexatious litigants to pursue court proceedings. [291766]

Bridget Prentice: Vexatious litigants may not instigate, continue or make any application in any court proceedings without first seeking leave from the High Court. To give leave the court has to be satisfied that there is no abuse of process and that there are reasonable grounds for the proceedings or application. We have no current plans to impose additional restrictions on vexatious litigants.

Young Offenders: Magistrates Courts

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* magistrates who sit in adult magistrates' courts and *(b)* other magistrates had received training on dealing with juvenile offenders on the latest date for which figures are available. [289378]

Bridget Prentice: No figures are kept centrally in this format. Having been selected to sit in first the adult court, and perhaps later specialising in the youth court, magistrates and district judges (magistrates court) receive training from both the Judicial Studies Board and local Magistrates Area Training Committees to fulfil their judicial roles and functions. This is a combination of courses on induction, continuation and bench chairmanship training by which includes information and practising practical examples of court scenarios such as bail decisions, trials, youths appearing in the adult court, youth remands, and by specific issue training when new legislation is commenced. This is supplemented by both the Adult Court and Youth Court Bench Books which are available to courts in both hard copy and via the JSB website.

Since the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, the Lord Chief Justice is responsible for the provision and sponsorship of judicial training, within the resources provided by the Lord Chancellor. Each year, the Judicial Studies Board publishes its own Annual Report and, on behalf of the Lord Chief Justice, a National Summary of individual Magistrates Area Training Committees' annual reports, which includes the details and volume of the training provided in the area during the preceding year.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that all *(a)* magistrates sitting in adult magistrates' courts and *(b)* district judges receive (i) specific training in bail law and (ii) guidelines in relation to juvenile remands. [289380]

Bridget Prentice: Since the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, the Lord Chief Justice is responsible for the provision and sponsorship of judicial training, within the resources provided by the Lord Chancellor. The Lord Chief Justice exercises his executive responsibilities for oversight of the Judicial Studies Board through the Judicial Executive Board.

Each year, magistrates and district judges (magistrates court) receive training from both the Judicial Studies Board and local Magistrates Area Training Committees designed to assist in fulfilling their judicial roles and functions via courses on induction, continuation and bench chairmanship training which includes information and practising practical examples of court scenarios such as bail decisions, youths appearing in the adult court, youth remands. This is supplemented by both the Adult Court and Youth Court Bench Books which are available to courts in both hard copy and via the JSB website.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the names are of the chairs of the board of each youth magistrates' court. [289385]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice does not hold a central list of chairmen of youth panels for each magistrates court. Chairmen of these panels are elected annually and can service for a maximum of three years. The number of youth panel chairmen are held by the Justices' Clerks Society with names held locally at each bench. This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Youth Justice

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many children have appeared before a magistrates' court on a Saturday in the latest year for which figures are available; [289383]

(2) how many youth courts have sat on a Saturday in the latest year for which figures are available. [289384]

Bridget Prentice: There are no figures available regarding how many children have appeared before a magistrates court on a Saturday. Data that is collected cannot be broken down into days of the week.

There are no figures available regarding whether any youth courts have sat on a Saturday. Youths appearing at court on a Saturday will appear before a magistrates court and be remanded or bailed to the relevant youth court.

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2009 to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central, *Official Report*, columns 656-57W, on blood: contamination, whether he has sought from the people whose personal information is in the seven withheld records permission to disclose those records. [290157]

Gillian Merron: No. I am advised that the documents contain personal information (exempt under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act), some of which was provided in confidence (and so exempt under section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act). In view of the time that has elapsed, and the personal nature of the information, we do not believe that i[redacted] appropriate for the Department to make such req

Drugs: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual cost to the public purse of drug action teams is; and how many staff are part of drug action teams. [292505]

Gillian Merron: Local drugs partnerships (such as Drug Action Teams) are responsible for delivering the Government's drug strategy at a local level. These combine representatives from key local bodies including local authorities, health, probation and the prison service. Because these partnerships operate at a local level, their structure differs from area to area, enabling them to best address the needs of their local populations.

Information about the structure and staffing of individual local drugs partnerships and their costs is not collected centrally.

Haemophilia

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many tissue or blood samples taken from UK haemophiliacs in the last three years are held by the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit; [292343]

(2) how many tissue or blood samples taken from UK haemophiliacs who are deceased are held by the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit; [292344]

(3) how many tissue or blood samples taken from UK haemophiliacs and held by the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit have been tested to date. [292345]

Gillian Merron: In the past three years (January 2006 to date), as part of an ethically approved surveillance study, the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit (NCJDSU) has received and tested 252 tissue samples from 12 patients with haemophilia for the presence of disease-associated protein. Of these 15 tissue samples were from five living people, and 237 tissue samples from seven deceased people. All samples were tested, and all samples had consent prior to them being sent to the NCJDSU for testing. No blood samples were received or tested.

To date, in total the NCJDSU holds 372 tissue, and no blood, samples from a total of 12 deceased patients with haemophilia.

All samples received by the NCJDSU have been tested.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether tissue or blood samples taken from UK haemophiliacs, and held as library samples, have been tested for the presence of the PA virus in the last three years. [292347]

Gillian Merron: There have been no known such tests.

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent advice his Department has sought on individual haemophiliacs' unique experience of multiple virus exposure, and its consequences for their health and treatment. [292348]

Gillian Merron: In the past year departmental officials have met with officials of the Haemophilia Society and, separately, with representatives of the UK Haemophilia Centre Doctors' Organisation. Haemophilia patients' experience of multiple virus exposure was discussed at some of these meetings.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much he expects his proposals to provide free parking for hospital in-patients to cost in each financial year; from which budgets he expects the money to be taken; and whether he expects the budgets of any other programmes to be reduced consequent on the implementation of those proposals; [292538]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of income from hospital parking charges accounted for by charges paid by *(a)* outpatients and *(b)* staff; and whether these groups will have access to free parking at hospital sites under his policy for free parking for hospital in-patients. [292539]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Over the next three years, as it can be afforded, car parking charges for in-patients will be phased out. Out-patients will benefit from improved Concession guidance that will be launched next year. Staff car parking is decided locally by national health service organisations and is not changed by the policy of phasing out of car parking charges for inpatients.

The cost per annum for phasing out car parking for in-patients and their visitors has been estimated at £141 million. Funding of these costs will be provided by reducing back office costs without affecting clinically related budgets.

The information requested on the assessment of parking charges is not available in the format requested. Data provided by the NHS in 2007-08 indicated that £27.9 million was received from staff car parking and £83.6 million from inpatients, outpatients and visitors. Parking charges relating specifically to outpatients was not collected separately. This information is as provided by the NHS and has not been amended separately. It was collected on a voluntary basis and therefore is not likely to be complete.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to ensure that all staff at NHS hospitals in England do not have to pay car parking charges; and if he will make a statement. [292936]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State recently announced plans to phase out car parking charges for in-patients. The Department has no plans to extend this to staff. It is the responsibility of each national health service organisation to set a policy on staff car parking that is appropriate to its local situation.

Midwives

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many agency midwives were employed by each primary care trust (PCT) in each of the last five years; and how much each PCT spent on the employment of agency midwives in each such year. [292681]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The midwifery agency spend is collected within the financial return as part of agency nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff costs. Agency midwifery spend is not identified separately.

Midwives: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each strategic health authority has spent on *(a)* three-year and *(b)* 18-month midwifery courses in each of the last five years. [292676]

Ann Keen: Information on how much each strategic health authority has spent on three-year and 18-month midwifery courses in each of the last five years is not held centrally.

NHS: Employment Agencies

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to increase the number of regionally-based recruitment agencies used to supply staff to the NHS. [293007]

Ann Keen: The recently awarded nursing framework has given agencies the opportunity to tender on both a regional and national basis and the framework has been awarded regionally i.e. aligned to strategic health authority boundaries.

NHS: Renewable Energy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS buildings use heat generated by *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* ground source heat pumps. [292014]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect data centrally on the number of national health services buildings in England that use heat generated by solar panels and ground source heat pumps.

NHS organisations are legally autonomous and are best placed to make their own decisions locally about specific items of equipment, such as solar panels and ground source heat pumps, to ensure they are appropriate to meet their needs, circumstances and strategies.

The Department is committed to supporting the NHS to meet the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008, such as carbon budgets and the forthcoming carbon reduction commitment. It is recognised that this will only be achieved by greater take-up by the NHS of renewable energy sources and better, more holistic energy efficiency measures. Provision by the Department of a £100 million energy and sustainability capital fund, encouraged the take-up of renewable energy forms of heat and power such as biomass boilers, solar panels and heat pumps.

The Department is actively supporting the NHS Sustainable Development Unit (NHS SDU), which has produced the NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy. In addition, the Department, in partnership with the Carbon Trust, is working with individual NHS organisations to identify appropriate investment strategies. The Carbon Trust along with the NHS SDU is also raising management awareness and providing implementation advice to NHS organisations.

The Department provides guidance to assist the NHS and their partners in meeting the criteria in the document Health Technical Memorandum 07-02 "Encode—making energy work in healthcare", a copy of which has been placed in the Library. This guidance provides general energy efficiency standards within healthcare facilities and covers new build and refurbishment projects as well as the energy management of existing facilities.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on the NHS business authority administering pre-paid prescription certificates in the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the income forgone in exemptions to prescription charges in the same period. [291575]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The administering of pre-payment prescription certificates (PPCs), medical exemption certificates and maternity exemption certificates is a single process. It is not possible to provide a cost for administering PPCs.

The total costs for England, including overheads, for the 12-month period August 2008 to July 2009 for administering PPCs, medical exemption certificates and maternity exemption certificates for residents of England was £4.418 million.

The estimate of income forgone in England from exemptions to prescription charges in the most recent 12 months for which data are available (August 2008 to July 2009) is £5.6 billion. The estimate assumes no deterrent effect, and no substitution of charged prescriptions with Over the Counter Medicines. This is likely to mean that this is an over-estimate.

Quality and Outcomes Framework

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to publish on its website a timetable for its review of Quality and Outcomes Framework indicators. [292934]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The independent Advisory Committee met in July and agreed principles for its review of Quality and Outcomes Framework indicators. Details of these discussions have been published on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence website and a copy placed in the Library.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the remit of the Quality and Outcomes indicator pilots for the Quality and Outcomes Framework will be. [292935]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Details of the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) indicator pilots are set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE'S) interim process guide for the development of QOF indicators. This guide has been published on the NICE website and a copy placed in the Library.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which diseases pilot indicator studies will be conducted for inclusion in the 2011-12 Quality and Outcomes Framework . [292949]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence have published details of indicators currently in development and for further review on their website. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanism exists for stakeholders to *(a)* contribute ideas for the expansion of or an amendment to Quality and Outcomes Framework indicators and *(b)* suggest new areas for pilot indicator development. [292960]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence opened an online suggestions facility on 15 September to enable any stakeholder to propose new a topic—or changes to an existing topic—for Quality and Outcomes Framework. The cut-off date for the current round of submissions was 13 October. After this date, there will be a further opportunity to suggest topics in spring 2010.

Slaughterhouses

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average change in veterinary charges in abattoirs has been in each year since 2006-07. [291918]

Gillian Merron: The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) is responsible for official controls in all approved fresh meat establishments in Great Britain to verify that Food Business Operators comply with hygiene and other legislation including animal welfare.

Total charges to abattoir operators (excluding cutting plants) for official controls carried out by the MHS were:

	£ million
2006-07	21.1
2007-08	23.1
2008-09	24.5

Swine Flu

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the chemical composition is of the swine flu vaccine his Department is planning to issue to the NHS. [291494]

Gillian Merron: It is the manufacturer's responsibility to provide this information to the European Medicines Agency (EMEA) as part of licensing requirements.

For the licensed Glaxo Smith Kline vaccine named Pandemrix, the excipient list as listed at EMEA website is as follows:

After mixing, 1 dose (0.5 ml) contains:

Split influenza virus, inactivated, containing antigen[1] equivalent to:

3.75 micrograms[2]

A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)v-like strain (X-179A)

[1] propagated in eggs

[2] haemagglutinin

AS03 adjuvant composed of squalene (10.69 milligrams), DL-a-tocopherol (11.86 milligrams) and polysorbate 80 (4.86 milligrams)

The suspension and emulsion, once mixed, form a multidose vaccine in a vial. The vaccine contains 5 micrograms thiomersal.

Suspension vial:

Polysorbate 80
Octoxynol 10
Thiomersal
Sodium chloride (NaCl)
Disodium hydrogen phosphate (Na2HP04).
Potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH2P04)
Potassium chloride (KCl)
Magnesium chloride (MgC12)
Water for injections

Emulsion vial:

Sodium chloride (NaC1)
Disodium hydrogen phosphate (Na2HP04)
Potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH2P04)
Potassium chloride (KCl)
Water for injections

Whole virion influenza vaccine, inactivated containing antigen of pandemic strain[1]:

A/California/07/2009 (H1N1)v 7.5 micrograms[2] per 0.5 ml dose

[1] propagated in Vero cells (continuous cell line of mammalian origin)

[2] expressed in micrograms haemagglutinin.

This is a muitidose container.

Trometamol
Sodium chloride
Water for injections
Polysorbate 80

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the availability of Tamiflu for dispensing on private prescriptions; and whether the increase in the NHS stockpile of Tamiflu affects this availability. [292902]

Gillian Merron: The supply of Tamiflu has been kept under review since the pandemic was declared and only very limited amounts have been available in the supply chain to fulfil private prescriptions. Bulk purchases by the United Kingdom and other Governments globally have meant that, to date, stocks available for supply against private prescriptions have been very limited. However, this situation is being kept under review and we are in regular touch with the manufacturer.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archives: Internet

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to ensure that the British Library and other institutions are able to build a digital archive which captures material published on the internet; and if he will make a statement. [293178]

Mr. Simon: We are currently considering the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel's recommendations on the "Collection and Preservation of UK Online Publications, free of charge and without access Restrictions". We are still awaiting recommendations from the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel on "E-journals and other commercial and protected online publications". Policy formulated in response to these recommendations will be published for public consultation. In the event that draft regulations result, they would be subject to affirmative resolution in both Houses.

Churches: Finance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that grant-making bodies for which his Department has responsibility give preference to those places of worship which donated their bells as a contribution to munitions in the Second World War in awarding grants for the replacement of church bells. [292923]

Margaret Hodge: There are no plans to influence grant-giving policy in the way that is suggested. However, the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to places of worship that are listed buildings. Eligible works include repairs to bells, their ringing mechanisms and bell frames. Replacement of bells would only be considered under the scheme where they are damaged beyond economic repair. Another source of funding is the Heritage Lottery Fund that has awarded a total of £12,148,814 to 237 projects that have involved the repair, conservation and restoration of church bells and bell-frames throughout the UK.

Circuses: Licensing

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to his response to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee report on the Licensing Act 2003, if he will set a timetable for the introduction of portable licences for circuses; and if he will make a statement. [289355]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As the Government's response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee suggested, we are currently looking at options for a portable licence for travelling entertainment such as circuses. Once we have developed these further, we will announce a timetable for progressing our proposals, including any necessary public consultation. In the meantime, I would be happy to meet the hon. Member to discuss how we can ensure that the views of circuses are fed into the development of these options.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to page 33 of his Department's Corporate Plan 2008, how many *(a)* policy and *(b)* expert advisers who are not special advisers are employed by his Department. [290810]

Mr. Sutcliffe: *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* In addition to the 43 policy/senior advisers employed by DCMS the Department currently employs the equivalent of 1.3 (one at 0.8 and one at 0.5 hours) expert advisers on secondment from other organisations. 0.5 is shared with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department in each of the last five years; what the reason for such action was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290545]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

	Number of dismissals	*Number of termination of contracts*	*Estimated severance cost*[1] *(£)*
2004-05	2	0	7,738.98
2005-06	0	0	—
2006-07	2	0	50,385.59
2007-08	0	0	—
2008-09	0	0	—

[1] The exact severance costs are held in Departmental offsite archives. Recalling this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Note:

The information is obtained from the Department's central electronic database. Due to the lower number of dismissals, it is inappropriate for detailed reasons to be provided. The Data Protection Act 1998 requires these data to be treated on confidence.

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290547]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Staff in DCMS are actively encouraged to work alternative working patterns, including part-time working, job-sharing and working from home. These are mainly arranged at local line management level and the Department does not hold comprehensive data centrally about the percentages of staff involved. DCMS have, recently, installed a new Human Resources Information System (Oracle), which will record this information.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290542]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has developed the following IT systems:

System	*Purpose*	*Cost (£)*
Livelink	Electronic document and records management	2,469,198
FoI/CMS	The management of Freedom of Information cases and general correspondence	467,654
User Account Request	Provide electronic requests for IS services with approval workflows	24,196
Enterprise Search	Provide an integrated search across all DCMS internal data.	72,396
Nakisa	Staff Directory	50,330
Secure Sharepoint	To provide a method of collaborating securely with third parties such as NDPBs and delivery partners up to restricted level.	533,851
CIBU Wiki	Information sharing for briefing and correspondence	212,485

All have been implemented except Secure Sharepoint which is in the final stages of development. None have been terminated.

This answer does not include systems that are procured as a service such as the accounting and HR services.

Departmental Logos

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons his Department has adopted a logo. [291500]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The DCMS logo is part of a wider visual identity that was adopted following the Department's name change in July 1997. The logo was refreshed in April 2006 in order to better explain the work of the Department to the public as well as improve the consistency and distinctiveness of DCMS communications.

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each Civil Service payband. [290544]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows the average length of employment of DCMS staff at each civil service payband—time in grade at DCMS only, excluding previous departmental experience.

Grade		*Average length of employment/years*
DCMS	*Civil service*	
A	Grade7	7
A(U)	Grade 6	7.5
B	HEO/SEO/HEOD	6.5
C	EO	7
D	AA/AO	8
SCS1	SCS1	7.5
SCS2	SCS2	4.5
SCS3	SCS3	9
Grand total		7

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292059]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to the published civil service statistics for 1997, the Department (then called the Department for National Heritage) had 1,004 full-time equivalent staff (44 industrial and 960 non industrial) and of these 666 were in executive agencies (at the time Historic Royal Palaces and the Royal Parks).

There have been some structural changes in the Department since then and the Department lost the Football Licensing Authority and Gambling Commission; and created the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) to oversee the whole Olympic programme in 2006.

Currently the number of full-time equivalent staff as of 30 September 2009 is as follows.

DCMS: 457

The Royal Parks Executive Agency: 105

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291599]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent the following amounts on hire vehicles in each of the last four years:

	£
2005-06	13,947.79
2006-07	16,094.75
2007-08	17,054.99
2008-09	10,823.38

Unfortunately we are unable to provide data for 2004-05 as this information is not held on our financial system.

Departmental Paternity Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff took paternity leave from his Department in each of the last five years; and what the average duration of such leave was in each such year. [290546]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is as follows:

	Number of employees	*Average length of leave (days)*	*Total number of days*
2008-09	2	11	21
2007-08	5	10.2	51
2006-07	0	0	0
2005-06	0	0	0
2004-05	0	0	0

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290548]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport offers two such schemes: *(a)* special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations, and *(b)* consistent with the general civil service principles of performance-related pay, to reward highly successful performance over a whole year. All permanent employees of the Department are eligible to receive either, subject to meeting the performance criteria. The costs of running this scheme for the past five years are set out as follows:

Special bonuses

	Total cost (£)
2009-10	[1]21,900
2008-09	60,855
2007-08	87,000
2006-07	69,565
2005-06	57,141

[1] Year to date

Performance bonuses

	Total cost (£)
2009-10	452,889
2008-09	373,064
2007-08	477,100
2006-07	413,160
2005-06	293,241

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289674]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A total of 48.2 per cent. of the Department's waste was recycled in the 2007-08 financial year.

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sick days were taken by staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost to the public purse of such absences was in each such year. [290543]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows.

The total cost of absence is based on the calculation made by the Department's payroll provider and it does not include the expense of covering absence with temporary staff or overtime.

	Total number of working days lost	*Cost of absence (£)*
2004-05	1,577	206,542
2005-06	1,556	248,762
2006-07	1,449	242,210
2007-08	1,315	238,693
2008-09	1,679	298,862
Total	7,576	1,235,069

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289676]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of external training courses attended by staff totals 180. The total cost of external training over the last 12 months was £216,274.91. The cost for each session is set out in the following table.

	Cost (£)
2009	
July (Courses = 13)	331.67
	200
	850
	428
	2,600
	331.67
	331.67
	1,350
	2,300
	2,230
	345
	805
	310
August (Courses = 9)	300
	899
	1,500
	1,470
	1,100
	160
	2,250
	480
	480
September (Courses = 15)	2,100
	1,470
	1,470
	2,200
	4,500
	315
	1,750
	2,000
	230
	1,300
	2,000
	850
	300
	283
	275
October (Courses = 22)	761.7
	480
	495
	76.5
	795
	490
	1,220
	365
	905
	1,350
	365
	783.75
	488.55
	1,500
	1,755
	1,150
	1,940
	550
	1,940
	480
	1,395
	1,259.1
November (Courses = 23)	765
	1,775
	2,900
	1,365
	430
	315
	85
	1,100
	1,250
	1,360
	775
	1,799
	2,300
	108
	400.5
	227
	801
	245
	400
	400
	400
	400

	Cost (£)
	380
December (Courses = 16)	760
	315
	1,580
	630
	1,180
	2,500
	1,550
	1,380
	940
	10,000
	2,250
	2,500
	1,550
	395
	340
	650
2009	
January (Courses = 12)	1,000
	170
	300
	480
	665
	1,100
	1,210
	315
	1,590
	395
	3,000
	3,000
February (Courses = 16)	6,500
	872.1
	872.1
	967
	967
	1,365
	315
	2,250
	890
	1,585
	1,640
	1,605
	700
	395
	395
	395
March (Courses = 20)	400
	1,400
	1,600
	235
	935
	755
	1,760
	1,365
	1,470
	2,500
	1,799
	430
	430
	480
	480
	480
	4,250
	100
	494.1
	967
April (Courses = 10)	140
	140
	700
	1,470
	1,460
	630
	480
	1,500
	480
	480
May (Courses = 14)	999
	140
	2,500
	3,660
	665
	1,600
	630
	990
	2,275
	1,620
	1,550
	1,500
	1,290
	805
June (Courses = 10)	430
	1,350
	920
	2,500
	10,500
	1,111.5
	1,998
	230
	855
	189

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households have been affected by the loss of ITV3 and ITV4 following the digital television re-tune of 30 September 2009; and who took the decision to remove ITV3 and ITV4 from the areas so affected. [292937]

Mr. Bradshaw: We believe that up to 1 million households could have been affected by the loss of ITV3 and ITV4 after the digital television re-tune. In some cases the services will be restored at digital switchover.

The decision to move one ITV service was approved as part of The Television Multiplex Services (Reservation of Digital Capacity) Order 2008, which paved the way for new services, including up to four High Definition services, on Freeview. ITV plc decided which channel to move to meet this requirement. The company also decided for commercial reasons to move another ITV channel to make way for other future channel developments as part of the re-tune process.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of licence fee receipts has been used to facilitate digital switchover; what proportion of the digital switchover help scheme budget remains unspent; and if his Department will make an assessment of the merits of using money from that scheme to upgrade relay transmitters. [292938]

Mr. Bradshaw: £803 million was set aside in the 2007-13 TV licence fee settlement to facilitate digital switchover. We expect there to be an under-spend on the £603 million provided for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme but it is too early to estimate the level of under-spend with any precision. However, as set out in the Digital Britain White Paper, a number of ways the under-spend might be redeployed have been identified. These include contributing to the roll-out of universal broadband; the maintenance of plurality of news in the nations, locally and in the regions; and the roll out of Digital Audio Broadcasting. There are no plans to use the under-spend to increase the coverage of the three commercial digital terrestrial television multiplexes.

There is a licence requirement that the three Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) digital multiplexes, which carry the public service broadcasting channels, should reach 98.5 per cent. of UK households after Digital Switchover. Since the national re-tune, ITV3 and ITV4, which are not PSB channels, have been carried on commercial multiplexes where the licence post-Switchover requirement is that 90 per cent. of household coverage is achieved. Any decision to build out beyond 90 per cent. coverage would be a commercial decision for the multiplex operators.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons the digital television re-tune of 30 September 2009 resulted in the loss of channels ITV3 and ITV4 by many viewers in the UK. [292940]

Mr. Bradshaw: The digital re-tune was undertaken by broadcasters to facilitate the move of Five to a Public Service Broadcasting multiplex and to make way for future channel developments, including the introduction of High Definition services on the digital terrestrial television (or Freeview) platform.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department was informed of the loss of ITV3 and ITV4 to many television viewers by *(a)* Freeview and *(b)* ITV prior to the digital television re-tune of 30 September 2009. [292941]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Television Multiplex Services (Reservation of Digital Capacity) Order 2008 required the transfer of one non-public service channel operated by Channel 3 license holders from a public service broadcasting (PSB) multiplex to a commercial multiplex. The aim of this measure was to facilitate the transfer of Five, a PSB channel, to a PSB multiplex in order to ensure universal coverage of Five , equivalent to the other public service channels at switchover, as well as further developments of the digital terrestrial television platform, including the introduction of high definition services.

I was also informed that ITV intended to move another ITV service to one of the commercial multiplexes, which have more restricted coverage, to make way for future channel developments. The decision on which channels to move was a commercial matter for ITV plc.

Digital Technology: Legal Deposit

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to introduce regulations to permit or require delivery of publications to legal deposit libraries by electronic means under the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003. [292904]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 allows for regulations to be made to widen the existing system of legal deposit to cover non-print publications. We are currently considering the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel's recommendations on the "Collection and Preservation of UK Offline and Microforms Publications" and the "Collection and Preservation of UK Online Publications, free of charge and without access Restrictions". Policy formulated in response to these recommendations will be published for public consultation in due course. In the event that draft regulations result, they would be subject to affirmative resolution in both Houses.

Freeview Service

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what statutory obligations apply to Freeview to ensure that all national free-to-air broadcasts from free-to-air broadcasters are equally available to all licence fee payers. [292939]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no such statutory obligations. The Communications Act 2003 requires that the coverage of the digital terrestrial television multiplexes carrying the public service channels[1] should substantially match the coverage of the comparable analogue services, which is estimated to be 98.5 per cent. of UK households.

Ofcom has included this condition in broadcasters' digital replacement licences and multiplex licences.

[1] All BBC channels, ITV1, Channel Four (main channel only), Five (main channel only) and S4C.

Horse Racing: Betting

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to assist the Horserace Betting Levy Board to collect Levy payments arising from bets placed with betting operators registered overseas. [291815]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We support the Levy Board's aim of securing contributions from gambling operators to ensure the continued health of racing.

The Department is currently conducting a review of remote gaming, which is examining this issue along with others. The review will report to Ministers by the end of the year, and Ministers will report findings to Parliament.

Publications: Sight Impairment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department provides to public libraries on the proportion of books which should be made available for people with visual impairments; and if he will make a statement. [293057]

Margaret Hodge: Decisions on stock purchasing remain with local library authorities and there are no national guidelines for the proportion of stock which should be held in accessible formats in individual libraries. However, public libraries recognise the special needs of visually impaired people in obtaining various suitable formats including large print books and spoken word material. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Public Library Statistics 2007-08 show 7,357,494 adult and 1,692,573 children's talking books issued on loan. Public libraries will also often refer visually impaired people to the RNIB National Library Service where a wide variety of book formats are available, including Braille titles.

Sports: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated to sport-related groups in North West Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years. [291485]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that they are unable to detail Exchequer funding for sport-related groups in North West Cambridgeshire as these type of data are not collated on a constituency basis.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport allocated Sport England over £480 million of Exchequer funding in the last five years, to invest in community sport both through national governing bodies and more specific local initiatives.

In addition, in 2009-10, the Department has allocated Sport England £135.7 million of Exchequer funding. Sport England has targets to get one million people doing more sport by 2012-13, and to make a major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people. North West Cambridgeshire will benefit, alongside every area of England, from Exchequer and lottery investment by Sport England in 2009-10 in support of these targets.

Although non-departmental funding, Sport England have advised that the following initiatives have received lottery funding to support participation in sport in North West Cambridgeshire in each of the last financial years.

Projects relating to 'Living Sport' are delivered through the County Sports Partnership, and as a result this funding will have been spent across all of Cambridgeshire.

Award date	*Parliamentary constituency*	*Recipient*	*Project description*	*Total award (£)*
20 October 1999	Cambridgeshire North West	Peterborough Area Canoeists and Kayakers Club	Award will enable members to go on essential coaching and safety courses they will then use the skills and qualifications acquired to provide training in canoeing to other clubs and non sporting organisations.	4,875
15 February 1999	Cambridgeshire North West	Castor and Ailsworth Tennis Club	Land purchase and construction of new court and clubhouse	44,570
19 October 2000	Cambridgeshire North West	Yaxley Wanderers	Participation is paramount to this group and grant will enable children of all abilities to enjoy league football particularly those denied opportunities elsewhere in the locality.	811
29 August 2000	Cambridgeshire North West	Peterborough Area Combined Triathlon Club	This project aims to raise the profile of the group and the sport of triathlon to help establish develop membership and skill levels at the club.	4,999

Award date	*Parliamentary constituency*	*Recipient*	*Project description*	*Total award (£)*
29 August 2000	Cambridgeshire North West	East Midlands Rugby Union Referees Society	This group provides training and development for referees in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire. The award is for a laptop pc and 10 copies of MS office.	1,580
14 June 2000	Cambridgeshire North West	Corby Rugby Football Club	This rugby club would like equipment to provide and promote a mini and junior team. The award is for a rucking sled, 20 junior rugby balls, 4 tackle bags, 3 body suits, 3 contact pads, a storage container and a training cd.	4,022
17 September 2001	Cambridgeshire North West	Upwood Cricket Club	Club uses award to develop and encourage children and young people to participate in village cricket and coaching with the provision of an artificial cricket wicket.	2,000
8 June 2001	Cambridgeshire North West	Shia Sports	The award provides a festival of sport on 21/22 July inc. swimming, netball, football and badminton for women and girls from local ethnic communities.	2,772
28 March 2001	Cambridgeshire North West	Orton Longueville School	The award will enable this school to provide a lunch-time and after school club to introduce rowing to young people and to open up rowing to all sections of the community.	3,878
20 March 2002	Cambridgeshire North West	Stanground College	To provide opportunities for young people to be introduced to rowing both in lunchtimes and after school to develop physical fitness and new skills.	4,289
20 March 2002	Cambridgeshire North West	St Ivo Racquets Club	To further increase capacity with additional coaching and practice facilities and to develop squads and tennis opportunities in the area with club/school links and other initiatives.	4,845
20 March 2002	Cambridgeshire North West	Stanground St. John's Primary School	An after-school athletics club to promote good practice and develop physical education activities in association with the secondary school.	521
20 March 2002	Cambridgeshire North West	Ormiston Children and Families Trust	Extending sporting opportunities to more children and families in the community with the provision of start-up costs and equipment for a new sports club.	4,346
20 March 2002	Cambridgeshire North West	Peterborough Athletic Club	To extend athletics opportunities	4,700
10 April 2002	Cambridgeshire North West	Sawtry Ladies Hockey Club	To encourage new members to this small rural hockey club by distributing leaflets to all homes in the area and the local secondary schools and providing essential training and kit.	1,028
30 October 2006	Cambridgeshire North West	Living Sport	Community Sports Coach Scheme	17,998
30 October 2006	Cambridgeshire North West	Living Sport	Living Sport Year 1 delivery Plan	149,250

Award date	*Parliamentary constituency*	*Recipient*	*Project description*	*Total award (£)*
16 August 2006	Cambridgeshire North West	Living Sport	County Sports Partnership Business Plan	382,832
30 April 2007	Cambridgeshire North West	Living Sport	Workforce Development Plan 07	160,275
7 May 2008	Cambridgeshire North West	Living Sport	Workforce Development 2008-09	160,735
17 June 2008	Cambridgeshire North West	Living Sport	County Sports Partnership Annual Development Plan -2008-09	140,000
12 December 2008	Cambridgeshire North West	Living Sport	Community Sports Coaching Scheme	18,323
Total				1,685,001

Sports: Energy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sports buildings which receive funding from his Department use heat generated by *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* ground source heat pumps. [292015]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department primarily channels its sports funding through two main distributors, Sport England and UK Sport.

Due to the widespread nature of the estates covered by these two bodies it is not possible to provide detail at the level requested without incurring disproportionate cost. DCMS and our NDPBs are keen to ensure that estates are maintained on a sustainable basis.

Sports: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of young people who ceased participating in sport after leaving school in the latest period for which figures are available. [291342]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* Sport England have advised that during the ages of 16 to 19, the period when young people leave school, sport participation[1] drops by 7 percentage points, (or the equivalent of 42,000 participants) from a participation rate of 37.4 per cent. at age 16, to a participation rate of 30.4 per cent. at age 19.

[1] Participation is defined as the percentage of the adult population participating in at least 30 minutes of sport, of at least moderate intensity, at least three times a week.

Age	*Participation rate (percentage)*	*Number of participants*
16	37.41	251,370
17	34.60	230,829
18	31.14	208,625
19	30.40	209,368

Source:
Sport England's Active People Survey 2 (Oct 2007-Oct 2008).

To address this, through the Sport Unlimited initiative, Sport England works closely with the Government to deliver the 5 Hour Young People's Sports Offer. Over three years, the programme will enable 900,000 children and young people to take part in 10-week taster sessions in sports and aims to get 300,000 participants to join clubs and continue with sport beyond those sessions. Additionally, one of Sport England's strategic targets is to reduce the drop-off among 16 to 18-year-olds in nine key sports. This target will be measured by the Active People survey and is based on reducing the gap between 16 and 18 year old participation by 25 per cent. The national target is therefore to increase overall participation in the nine drop-off sports among 18-year-olds to 31 per cent.

The latest 12 month rolling participation figure illustrates that there has been a statistically significant increase in overall participation in the nine drop-off sports among 18-year-olds from 189,100 to 202,500. If this level of overall participation in the nine drop-off sports were maintained until the end of the current strategy period then the participation figures are expected to reach the target of 31 per cent.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of collecting the television licence fee was in each of the last five years. [292908]

Mr. Bradshaw: Administration and enforcement of the television licensing system are the responsibility of the BBC, which operates independently of Government. The day-to-day administration and enforcement of the licence fee regime is undertaken by TV Licensing, who act as agents for the Corporation.

I have, therefore, asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member for Bath and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

World Cup

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will discuss with the Football Association the inclusion of *(a)* Lilleshall National Sports Academy and *(b)* other football training facilities in Shropshire in its bid for the UK to host the 2018 World Cup. [291995]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Football Association are leading in the bid for the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups and are following a selection process to make venues available for FIFA to select host cities and training venues. I will ensure that bid officials are aware of Lilleshall's potential.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of registered holdings which are farmed by people other than the owner or tenant under *(a)* contract farming, *(b)* share farming and *(c)* other similar arrangements; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures (i) five and (ii) 10 years ago. [291915]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Recent research (published in 2007) into joint venture farming, including contract farming and share farming[1], indicates that a small minority (3 to 5 per cent.) of farmers in England are involved in a joint venture farming activity—although more informal arrangements are probably more common. The research suggests that share farming is carried out by 1 to 2 per cent. and contract farming by 3 to 4 per cent. of farms in England.

This research was based on the Farm Business Survey sample in England between 2002 and 2004. The farms represented in the survey account for 95 per cent. of national economic output from farming. No data are available for other similar arrangements, nor for earlier years.

[1] https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/reports/jvf/JVF_Research_Project-Final_Report.pdf

Agriculture: Manpower

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in each county were employed in agriculture in each of the last 10 years. [291907]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of employees working on agricultural and horticultural holdings in each county in England for 1999 to 2008 can be found in the table. Employees are defined as salaried managers, full-time, part-time and casual workers working on the holding on 1 June each year.

	1999[1]	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees	186	154	167	167	146	144	122	119	126	133
South Teesside	201	179	183	183	187	198	204	180	197	210
Darlington	165	132	131	131	[2]—	120	121	110	102	107
Durham CC	1,211	1,060	978	978	888	923	869	845	831	901
Northumberland	2,560	2,184	2,211	2,211	2,056	1,847	1,879	1,775	1,712	1,744
Tyneside	195	209	194	194	176	185	154	145	138	150
Sunderland	66	80	87	87	[2]—	90	91	83	43	43
West Cumbria	1,239	1,109	1,077	1,077	944	1,018	1,079	1,052	1,046	1,100
East Cumbria	2,808	2,395	2,090	2,090	1,956	2,035	2,075	2,004	2,059	2,116
Halton and Warrington	253	280	288	288	281	303	341	199	197	214
Cheshire CC	3,936	3,455	3,142	3,142	2,888	3,002	3,039	2,786	2,853	2,959
Greater Manchester South	463	424	436	[2]—	394	382	305	317	312	315
Greater Manchester North	566	416	442	442	367	400	387	410	357	360
Blackburn with Darwen	84	65	66	66	[2]—	63	60	51	60	71
Blackpool	140	27	31	31	[2]—	[2]—	19	13	13	[2]—
Lancashire CC	5,791	5,456	4,830	4,830	4,290	4,455	4,427	4,442	4,407	4,382
East Merseyside	335	183	211	211	204	230	194	274	248	301
Liverpool	70	74	84	[2]—	74	81	[2]—	81	80	78
Sefton	177	138	146	146	139	149	154	181	176	175
Wirral	134	107	113	113	[2]—	123	[2]—	92	94	100
Kingston upon Hull, City of	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	9	[2]—	12
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,659	3,926	3,709	3,709	[2]—	3,610	3,446	3,359	2,991	3,022
North and North East Lincolnshire	1,128	1,040	950	950	895	982	926	791	773	794
York	272	283	255	255	[2]—	220	[2]—	215	194	224
North Yorkshire CC	7,616	6,415	6,173	6,173	5,733	6,071	5,893	5,692	5,861	6,076
Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham	1,092	904	871	871	785	801	759	766	703	768
Sheffield	186	171	167	167	139	155	165	154	167	187
Bradford	302	243	258	258	216	221	228	225	229	245
Leeds	644	637	631	631	540	596	539	521	562	559

	1999[1]	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield	1,046	881	821	821	726	782	752	800	722	783
Derby	31	20	20	20	19	19	22	27	20	10
East Derbyshire	530	431	410	410	351	369	350	346	371	422
South and West Derbyshire	2,135	1,794	1,464	1,464	1,350	1,441	1,452	1,399	1,434	1,523
Nottingham	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
North Nottinghamshire	1,825	1,587	1,609	1,609	1,584	1,685	1,763	1,501	1,455	1,558
South Nottinghamshire	846	759	835	[2]—	773	828	811	751	622	652
Leicester	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	34	29	12	[2]—	[2]—
Leicestershire CC and Rutland	2,716	2,513	2,279	2,279	2,238	2,290	2,316	2,256	2,285	2,349
Northamptonshire	1,883	1,717	1,594	1,594	1,447	1,514	1,446	1,529	1,635	1,658
Lincolnshire	11,108	10,079	9,163	9,163	8,755	8,749	8,844	8,288	7,886	7,933
Herefordshire, County of	3,990	3,783	3,578	3,578	[2]—	3,807	[2]—	5,279	5,902	5,896
Worcestershire	4,171	3,700	3,198	3,198	3,074	3,405	3,169	3,058	2,945	3,116
Warwickshire	2,899	2,741	3,041	3,041	2,881	3,126	2,962	2,679	2,247	2,304
Telford and Wrekin	459	396	342	342	320	328	314	293	284	304
Shropshire CC	3,881	3,480	3,218	3,218	3,024	3,174	3,412	3,368	3,092	3,233
Stoke-on-Trent	14	12	20	20	[2]—	18	[2]—	14	11	12
Staffordshire CC	3,943	3,414	3,277	3,277	2,654	2,767	3,015	2,938	3,096	3,324
Birmingham	32	19	19	19	24	36	91	46	39	51
Solihull	205	148	137	137	[2]—	130	[2]—	111	115	117
Coventry	62	57	43	43	[2]—	42	[2]—	36	43	49
Dudley and Sandwell	45	48	58	58	54	57	64	44	35	44
Walsall and Wolverhampton	85	85	65	65	61	67	66	55	62	64
Peterborough	349	261	274	274	258	266	266	258	245	247
Cambridgeshire CC	4,832	4,344	4,329	4,329	3,833	4,335	4,583	4,540	4,301	4,676
Norfolk	9,781	8,560	8,325	8,325	7,776	8,111	7,393	6,539	7,000	7,441
Suffolk	6,532	5,715	5,157	5,157	4,712	4,982	4,986	4,715	4,449	4,416
Luton	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Bedfordshire CC	1,380	1,203	1,339	1,339	930	1,002	1,015	835	860	898
Hertfordshire	1,761	1,564	1,638	1,638	1,343	1,391	1,286	1,237	1,314	1,265
Southend-on-Sea	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	0	[2]—	0	0
Thurrock	129	106	116	116	[2]—	93	[2]—	86	79	112
Essex CC	6,065	5,248	5,104	5,104	4,705	4,740	4,708	4,633	4,519	4,887
Inner London—West	0	0	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Inner London—East	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	61	[2]—	51	50	57
Outer London—East and North East	315	297	281	281	246	290	294	266	274	235
Outer London—South	347	339	345	345	275	203	206	212	212	195
Outer London—West and North West	154	134	120	120	114	118	109	97	98	101
Berkshire	1,148	945	1,125	1,125	1,146	1,267	1,338	1,294	1,592	1,642
Milton Keynes	188	155	160	160	[2]—	158	145	155	134	136
Buckinghamshire CC	1,727	1,424	1,279	1,279	1,146	1,267	1,301	1,155	1,210	1,267
Oxfordshire	2,666	2,172	2,125	2,125	1,903	2,041	2,003	1,934	1,924	1,958
Brighton and Hove	82	72	65	[2]—	60	62	[2]—	44	38	41
East Sussex CC	2,291	1,798	1,843	1,843	1,714	1,766	1,747	1,683	1,630	1,769
Surrey	2,998	2,555	2,414	2,414	2,109	2,317	2,286	2,318	2,212	2,053
West Sussex	5,394	4,633	4,660	4,660	4,351	4,488	4,622	4,494	4,422	4,075
Portsmouth	[2]—	0	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	0	0	0
Southampton	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Hampshire CC	5,572	4,471	4,488	4,488	4,343	4,677	4,461	4,196	4,233	4,310
Isle of Wight	865	812	627	[2]—	916	897	870	824	345	1,070

	1999[1]	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Medway	410	319	356	356	334	311	[2]—	527	463	615
Kent CC	11,492	9,675	10,103	10,103	9,204	10,215	9,814	10,553	9,456	10,350
Bristol, City of	31	54	76	76	50	56	53	30	35	62
North and N E Somerset, South Glos	2,203	1,932	1,364	1,364	1,221	1,263	1,258	1,199	1,147	1,150
Gloucestershire	3,416	2,919	2,918	2,918	2,704	2,891	2,832	2,833	2,594	2,598
Swindon	176	160	149	149	[2]—	120	[2]—	118	121	116
Wiltshire CC	3,244	2,853	2,675	2,675	2,413	2,520	2,556	2,441	2,467	2,623
Bournemouth and Poole	53	40	34	34	30	35	35	19	18	14
Dorset CC	3,508	3,023	2,808	2,808	2,815	3,080	3,082	2,825	2,717	2,822
Somerset	5,277	4,690	4,343	4,343	3,886	4,216	4,235	4,047	3,849	4,013
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	5,204	5,004	4,323	4,323	4,010	4,350	3,924	3,827	3,724	4,534
Plymouth	100	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	12	[2]—	[2]—
Torbay	27	25	16	16	[2]—	12	17	27	20	31
Devon CC	7,451	6,355	6,353	6,353	5,884	6,302	6,179	5,452	5,417	6,011
England	175,656	153,357	146,585	146,585	135,293	143,059	141,868	137,252	134,057	140,605

[1] Data prior to 2000 refers to main holdings only. From 2000 onwards all holdings are included.

[2] Suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

Note:

Employees are salaried managers, full-time, part-time and casual workers, (paid and unpaid).

Source:

June Agricultural Survey

Badgers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the research on badger perturbation produced by the Woodchester Project. [292424]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Food and Environment Research Agency's Woodchester Park team has published over 100 papers on the relationship between badger biology and bovine TB dynamics. Research on the perturbation of badger populations, including work on the relationship between badger movement and TB dynamics at Woodchester Park, has been peer-reviewed and published in the following recent scientific papers:

Carter S, Delahay R, Smith G, Macdonald D, Riordan P, Etherington T, Pimley E, Cheeseman C (2007) Culling-induced social perturbation in Eurasian badgers Meles meles and the management of TB in cattle: an analysis of a critical problem in applied ecology. "Proceedings of the Royal Society B (Biological Sciences)" 274, 2769-2777.

Vicente J, Delahay R, Walker N, Cheeseman C (2007) Social organisation and movement influence the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in an undisturbed high density badger (Meles meles) population. "Journal of Animal Ecology" 76, 348-360.

McDonald RA, Delahay RJ, Carter SP, Smith GC, Cheeseman CL (2008) Perturbing implications of wildlife ecology for disease control. "Trends in Ecology and Evolution" 23, 53-56.

Further detail of the DEFRA funded Woodchester Park project (SE3032 The long term intensive ecological and epidemiological investigation of a badger population naturally infected with "Mycobacterium bovis") is available on the DEFRA website.

Beef: Brazil

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much beef was imported from Brazil in *(a)* May, *(b)* June, *(c)* July and *(d)* August in each year since 2005. [291919]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the amount of beef imported from Brazil in May, June, July and August in each year since 2005.

Month and year	*Total number of consignments*	*Total quantity (kilos)*
May 2005	6	69,034
June 2005	11	157,602
July 2005	6	132,157
August 2005	5	101,854
May 2006	232	3,244,413
June 2006	238	6,137,593
July 2006	166	2,599,620
August 2006	156	3,836,404
May 2007	193	3,120,213
Jun 2007	189	3,129,371
July 2007	108	1,510,158
August 2007	117	1,668,119
May 2008	6	45,529
June 2008	8	99,549
July 2008	0	0
August 2008	4	6,812
May 2009	7	81,629
June 2009	26	143,413
July 2009	3	35,101
August 2009	13	764,575

Note:

Information obtained from TRACES.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum and *(c)* Hertfordshire were under bovine tuberculosis restrictions on the latest date for which figures are available. [289426]

Jim Fitzpatrick: TB statistics are available currently at county and regional level. On 30 June 2009 the number of herds under restriction in Hertfordshire was 13, with one new unconfirmed TB incident. It should be noted that herds under restriction on 30 June will include herds under restriction due to overdue TB tests.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who his Department plans to contract to undertake the vaccination of badgers in the forthcoming bovine TB project; and if he will make a statement. [292423]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Contractors to undertake the vaccination of badgers for the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project will be recruited through an EU tender run by the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera). This is currently underway and will run until April 2010.

Fera will train the recruited contractors to trap and vaccinate badgers as part of the licensing and accreditation process.

Departmental Communication

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classified as (i) communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [291843]

Dan Norris: There are currently 67 staff in the Communications Career Home within core DEFRA including individuals outside the Communications Directorate.

All UK civil servants can access the Government Communication Network (GCN) to view and receive e-mail alerts for job vacancies but they must be working as a communicator to register as a member and access networking areas of the site.

Information on Communicators in DEFRA Executive Agencies and NDPB's is not held centrally at present. However, these data are likely to become available over the next few months.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 38W, on departmental electronic equipment, how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on (i) flat screen televisions, (ii) DVD players and (iii) stereo equipment since December 2008. [289171]

Dan Norris: The core-Department's financial system records expenditure of £18,024 on flat screen televisions since December 2008. No expenditure is recorded for DVD players and stereo equipment. Expenditure on electronic equipment by DEFRA's agencies is not recorded centrally outside of the core-Department's financial system and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote energy efficiency in its operations. [289529]

Dan Norris: We are taking the following steps to maximise our energy efficiency:

Interactive building management systems (BMS) linked to visual displays, informing staff of energy efficiency within the building and other sustainability indicators, e.g. CO_2 emissions, water use, waste and recycling.

Adoption of the Carbon Trust Standard and Energy Efficiency Accreditation Scheme (EEAS)—both of these measure actual performance in terms of CO_2 output.

Sustainability Champions have been appointed as part of the new Sustainable Workplace Management contract. They will work within each site to monitor energy use, identify and implement efficiency measures and report progress towards site energy targets on a quarterly basis.

This is supported by an ongoing programme of installation of energy efficient technologies. Initiatives which have already been implemented include: voltage regulation technologies, energy efficiency lighting, insulation and draught proofing, biomass, combined heat and power plants and automatic metering (AMR) of utilities. Thermal imaging surveys have also been undertaken at a number of sites, the survey results will form a programme of works to improve the thermal efficiency of the buildings.

Departmental ICT

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290522]

Dan Norris: Data on costs of IT systems could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Instead data has been provided for the entire project where IT system development costs are a significant proportion.

The projects listed are information technology projects in DEFRA that were estimated to cost more than £1 million over the life of the project. Costs listed exclude the day-to-day running costs after the completion of the project. The figures quoted are either the actual cost for completed projects or the latest forecast estimates as at April 2009 for those that are not yet completed. The estimated costs to completion are subject to change and the Department carries out regular reviews of the projects and their associated business cases at key strategic points.

Projects costing less than £1 million, those being carried out within Executive agencies, projects transferred to the Department for Energy and Climate Change and projects initiated after November 2008 have all been excluded as such data is not held centrally. Collection would incur a disproportionate cost to the Department.

No projects have been terminated following implementation.

Project	*Reason for development*	*Actual/expected completion date*	*Status*	*Actual/estimated costs (£)*
Catalyst	To provide Electronic Data and Records Management system for DEFRA	—	Project closed in November 2005. Pilot phase demonstrating that predicted productivity benefits would not be fully realised and costs would be higher than expected and would outweigh the quantified benefits. Further cost to taxpayer avoided estimated at £19 million.	12,600,000
Customer and Land Database (CLAD)	To enable a limited set of Rural Payments Agency (RPA) customer and land data sets to be shared securely within the DEFRA delivery body Network	March 2010	Ongoing	1,730,000
Customer Information Programme	To enable DEFRA to hold improved customer information	—	Project closed during development phase in June 2007 due to reprioritisation of budget. Project deliverables (valued at £247,000 were reused in CLAD development)	9,920,663
e-Domero	Development of an online application for management of plant health-related processes. It is used by plant health and seeds inspectors to record licensed inspections of plants coming into and out of the UK	April 2007	Completed	1,000,600
Enabling Technology Programme 2009-10	Annual investment programme in high priority infrastructure and application architecture developments driven by DEFRA Network's business needs	March 2010	Ongoing	3,100,000
National Equine Database	Joint industry/public sector development of a database to hold data on 'horse passports' for the purpose of monitoring passport compliance and for disease control surveillance	December 2006	Completed	1,570,000
Noise Mapping	IT system developed to meet requirements of Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006 to enable the production of Noise Maps to help production of plans to manage noise issues and effects	May 2007	Completed	4,300,000
RADAR (Rapid Analysis and Detection of Animal-related Risks)	Development of a data warehouse bringing together information about livestock populations and diseases from many different Government data sources allowing for analysis to be performed in event of a disease outbreak	March 2009	Completed	12,228,000
UK Location Programme	DEFRA leads the cross-Government UK Location Programme, a joint programme to implement the INSPIRE EU Directive and the UK Location Strategy	December 2012	Ongoing	12,800,000
Phoenix IT Project	To handle licences for protected species covered by international conventions	—	Project closed in June 2006 due to reprioritisation of budgets. Further cost to taxpayer avoided estimated at £2.5 million	3,998,807
Renew IT	Providing a modern and efficient IT working environment based on refreshed IT services	March 2009	Completed	9,000,000
Spatial Information Repository (SPIRE)	Supports policy making and operational delivery by providing access to up-to-date geographic information	March 2010	Ongoing	14,950,000
Waste Data Strategy	Development of a data warehouse that takes data from Environment Agency and DEFRA systems to allow for production of summary and ad-hoc reports/analysis to produce a sound evidence base for improved waste management policy development	June 2007	Completed	2,500,000
Web Rationalisation	To support the Transformational Government Web Rationalisation Programme	March 2011	Ongoing	1,440,000

Project	*Reason for development*	*Actual/expected completion date*	*Status*	*Actual/estimated costs (£)*
Whole Farm Approach	Current work is centred on providing online access to key transactional systems from various DEFRA agencies via the Whole Farm Approach including single farm payment, environmental stewardship and cattle tracing	March 2011	Ongoing	74,000,000

Departmental Recycling

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of his Department's waste was recycled in the latest period for which figures are available. [289664]

Dan Norris: The latest available figures show the following percentages of waste were recycled and recovered in 2007-08:

	Percentage
Recycled (recycled, composted, reused externally)	29
Recovered (recycled, composted, reused externally, incinerated with energy recovery)	60

It should be noted that DEFRA incinerates approximately 30 per cent. of its waste; from which significant quantity of heat and energy is recovered. Current Sustainable Development Commission reporting does not acknowledge energy recovery from waste incineration as recycling or waste recovery under current Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) guidelines.

Food: Production

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of food consumed nationwide which was produced domestically in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [291925]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides the answer to this question.

Percentage of food produced in the UK which is consumed in the UK

	Percentage
1997	58
1998	56
1999	57
2000	56
2001	56
2002	54
2003	53
2004	53
2005	50
2006	49
2007	50
2008	[1]53

[1] Provisional.

Note:

This should not be confused with the measure of UK Self-Sufficiency in all Food, which in 2008 was 60 per cent. (provisional figure), since self sufficiency shows the percentage of all UK food production, including UK exports, as a percentage of consumption. Both measures are based on the value of unprocessed food.

Forests

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the area of commercial woodland and forestry in England that is owned by *(a)* Forest Enterprise and *(b)* private landowners and public limited companies. [291914]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information is not held in that format by the Forestry Commission. The "National Inventory of Woodland and Trees" published in 2001 included information on ownership type for woodland areas of 2.0 hectares or more. This is given in the following table.

Ownership type	*Area (hectares)*
Personal	480,794
Business	146,601
Forestry or timber business	7,200
Charity	68,484
Local authority	61,098
Other public (not Forestry Commission)	27,302
Forestry Commission	222,694
Community ownership or common land	3,732
Unidentified	3,917
Total	1,021,822

Foxes

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated number of foxes in each county in England was in each of the last 10 years. [291955]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not carry out annual surveys of fox numbers by county and is not aware of any measures of absolute numbers of red fox ('Vulpes vulpes') per county.

However, information on game bags (foxes taken e.g. by shooting) is provided by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's national gamebag census. The analysis of mammal data from this annual survey is funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee as part of its surveillance programme. It provides an index of bag density for this species at a UK, country and regional scale and can be used to indicate what the population trend might be. The gamebag data for foxes over the last 10 years fluctuates, but the overall trend appears to be stable or slightly increasing.

The results of this scheme are available in a report entitled "Participation of the National Gamebag Census in the Mammal Surveillance Network". A copy of this has been placed in the House Library.

Hill Livestock Allowances

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average age of a farmer receiving the hill farm allowance was in each year since the introduction of the allowance. [291922]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Rural Payments Agency does not keep records concerning the age of applicants under the Hill Farm Allowance scheme.

Meat: Imports

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value of each meat product imported from (i) Argentina, (ii) Botswana, (iii) Brazil, (iv) China, (v) Democratic Republic of Congo, (vi) Ecuador, (vii) Egypt, (viii) Israel, (ix) the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, (x) Russia, (xi) South Africa, (xii) Turkey and (xiii) Vietnam was in each of the last five years. [291909]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides details of imports of meat and meat products from the specified countries, as recorded in the Official Overseas Trade Statistics, for the period 2004-08.

UK imports of meat and meat products from selected countries for 2004 to 2008

			2004		2005		2006	
Country	*Type*	*Cut*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*
Argentina	Beef	Boneless	24,188	8,641	20,413	9,226	20,299	5,128
		Edible offal	165	169	376	265	98	57
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	11,239	8,931	10,164	7,309	8,212	4,906
		Other cuts with bone in	[1]—	[1]—	16	11	[1]—	[1]—
	Chicken	Bone in	67	66	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Boneless	1,306	1,015	1,782	1,276	1,322	997
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	24	14	[1]—	[1]—	71	50
		Whole	148	249	350	485	148	228
	Goat	Carcases and half carcases	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Lamb	Boneless	297	180	1,066	515	1,108	696
		Carcases and half carcases	2,285	1,496	2,012	1,233	337	227
	Other (not elsewhere stated)	Meat	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Sheep	Bone in	54	42	60	34	562	275
		Boneless	36	24	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Sheep and goat	Edible offal	3	8	65	107	57	76
Botswana	Beef	Boneless	15,422	4,848	11,351	3,461	8,317	2,380
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	506	285	376	201	538	235
Brazil	Beef	Boneless	60,783	34,588	59,134	32,120	68,290	28,340
		Carcases and half carcases	22	23	32	23	[1]—	[1]—
		Edible offal	324	331	323	339	163	163
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	72,984	58,677	73,581	53,237	77,097	50,305
		Other cuts with bone in	[1]—	[1]—	93	[illegible]	16	12
	Chicken	Bone in	7	12				
		Boneless	46,060	34,891	59,759	48,194	24,158	16,846
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	9,443	6,148	14,087	10,224	13,540	9,326
		Whole	2,674	4,674	1,902	2,822	1,677	2,711
	Homogenised preparations	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Lamb	Boneless	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

UK imports of meat and meat products from selected countries for 2004 to 2008

			2004		2005		2006	
Country	*Type*	*Cut*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*
		Carcases and half carcases	30	17	16	17	[1]—	[1]—
	Other (not elsewhere stated)	Edible offal	[1]—	[1]—	[illegible]	[1]—	29	24
		Meat	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6,957	5,672
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	1
	Sheep	Bone in	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Sheep and goat	Edible offal	73	63	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Turkey	Bone in	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	29	19
		Boneless	432	324	220	144	161	117
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	5,451	4,233	1,063	863	138	96
China	Beef	Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Chicken	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	160	109	30	19
	Lamb	Boneless	[1]—	[1]—	20	4	30	13
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	62	18	54	22
	Sheep	Bone in	[1]—	[1]—	73	20	[1]—	[1]—
Egypt	Sheep and goat	Edible offal	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6	6
Israel	Chicken	Bone in	45	17	22	9	25	7
		Boneless	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Edible offal	1	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	69	20	53	15	35	8
	Other (not elsewhere stated)	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	1
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	30	7	42	3	93	6
	Sausages and similar products[2]	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	23	7	11	3	[1]—	[1]—
	Turkey	Bone in	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Boneless	180	97	[1]—	[1]—	31	8
		Edible offal	1	1	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	384	270	107	32	48	16
		Whole	1	1	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
South Africa	Beef	Boneless	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	519	308	399	254	197	118
	Chicken	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	42	19
	Duck, geese and guinea fowl	Bone in	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Game (not elsewhere stated)	Meat and edible meat offal	95	31	69	16	58	15

UK imports of meat and meat products from selected countries for 2004 to 2008

Country	Type	Cut	2004 £000	2004 Tonnes	2005 £000	2005 Tonnes	2006 £000	2006 Tonnes
	Game or rabbit	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
	Other (not elsewhere stated)	Meat and edible meat offal	62	15	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	7	4	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
	Sheep	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
Turkey	Beef	Boneless	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	4	1
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	153	100	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
	Chicken	Boneless	38	13	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
	Pig	Meat	(1)—	(1)—	9	6	(1)—	(1)—
	Sausages and similar products	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
Vietnam	Chicken	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	30	20
	Frogs' legs	Meat and edible meat offal	(1)—	(1)—	23	9	10	4
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	9	2	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
	Reptiles	Meat and edible meat offal	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—

Country	Type	Cut	2007 £000	2007 Tonnes	2008 £000	2008 Tonnes
Argentina	Beef	Boneless	13,753	3,481	14,033	3,051
		Edible offal	82	58	173	74
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	10,391	6,067	13,764	6,731
		Other cuts with bone in	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
	Chicken	Bone in	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
		Boneless	1,644	994	3,113	1,603
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	378	201	376	210
		Whole	1,537	2,160	1,813	1,029
	Goat	Carcases and half carcases	26	19	(1)—	(1)—
	Lamb	Boneless	602	356	1,155	503
		Carcases and half carcases	276	191	468	286
	Other (not elsewhere stated)	Meat	34	26	43	20
	Sheep	Bone in	539	294	345	147
		Boneless	81	40	(1)—	(1)—
	Sheep and goat	Edible offal	90	60	8	6
Botswana	Beef	Boneless	13,158	3,897	10,539	3,247
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	739	273	(1)—	(1)—
Brazil	Beef	Boneless	61,333	25,670	16,798	3,422
		Carcases and half carcases	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—	(1)—
		Edible offal	56	60	25	13

			2007		*2008*	
Country	*Type*	*Cut*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	80,813	58,458	64,272	35,306
		Other cuts with bone in	90	12	105	48
	Chicken	Bone in	[1]—	[1]—	78	92
		Boneless	11,432	7,456	10,189	5,926
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	22,260	14,795	42,320	21,772
		Whole	3,217	4,347	4,626	4,450
	Homogenised preparations	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	28	9
	Lamb	Boneless	30	12	51	18
		Carcases and half carcases	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Other (not elsewhere stated)	Edible offal	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Meat	26,745	17,829	34,455	20,693
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	13	8	[1]—	[1]—
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	14	6
	Sheep	Bone in	20	12	52	25
	Sheep and goat	Edible offal	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Turkey	Bone in	[1]—	[1]—	349	126
		Boneless	937	440	2,356	1,056
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	305	162	252	92
China	Beef	Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	142	99	[1]—	[1]—
	Chicken	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	93	45	198	71
	Lamb	Boneless	43	18	34	19
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Sheep	Bone in	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Egypt	Sheep and goat	Edible offal	46	44	25	20
Israel	Chicken	Bone in	66	23	13	4
		Boneless	[1]—	[1]—	12	4
		Edible offal	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	55	23	[1]—	[1]—
	Other (not elsewhere stated)	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	5	1
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	108	8	[1]—	[1]—
	Sausages and similar products	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Turkey	Bone in	205	81	72	26
		Boneless	45	18	441	151
		Edible offal	3	6	3	4
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	524	257	68	22
		Whole	4	2	[1]—	[1]—
South Africa	Beef	Boneless	[1]—	[1]—	1	0
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	51	34	[1]—	[1]—
	Chicken	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Duck, geese and guinea fowl	Bone in	5	1	[1]—	[1]—
	Game (not elsewhere stated)	Meat and edible meat offal	179	63	[1]—	[1]—

			2007		*2008*	
Country	*Type*	*Cut*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*
	Game or rabbit	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	20	1	[1]—	[1]—
	Other (not elsewhere stated)	Meat and edible meat offal	9	2	[1]—	[1]—
		Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	5	0	[1]—	[1]—
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Sheep	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	526	157	532	146
Turkey	Beef	Boneless	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
		Meat and offal (other than liver) inc. corned beef	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Chicken	Boneless	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Pig	Meat	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Sausages and similar products	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	1	0	[1]—	[1]—
Vietnam	Chicken	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Frogs' legs	Meat and edible meat offal	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Poultry	Prepared or preserved meat, offal or blood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
	Reptiles	Meat and edible meat offal	1	1	[1]—	[1]—

Notes:
'0' = quantity less than half the unit shown
[1]— = nil values
Source:
HM Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Economics and Statistics Programme, DEFRA
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It should be noted that imports of certain meats from many of these countries are not permitted. The following provides details of these import restrictions:

Country	*Import restrictions*
Brazil	Bone in beef meat (inc carcases and half carcases)
Brazil	Sheep meat, inc lamb and goat meat
Argentina	Sheep and goat meat/lamb (only from May 2002)
Israel	Beef
China	Sheep meat inc lamb
Turkey	Beef, pig meat, sheep meat
Russia	Pig meat
Turkey	All poultry meat
Vietnam	All poultry meat
Egypt	All poultry meat
China	All poultry meat was prohibited from China in 2004

Where imports are not permitted we believe that any imports recorded in the Overseas Trade Statistics represent consignments which have been exported from GB, rejected and returned or goods where the incorrect customs code have been entered.

There was no recorded trade in meat and meat products during this period for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Russia or West Bank/Gaza Strip. West Bank/Gaza Strip is the recognised designation for the Palestinian region used by HMRC.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 23 June 2009, on carbon emissions and climate change. [292906]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

I replied to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on 6 August, and apologise for the delay in response.

Milk: Overseas Trade

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* liquid milk and *(b)* milk powder was (i) imported and (ii) exported in each of the last three years. [291911]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Imports and exports of liquid milk and milk powder are shown in the following tables.

Liquid milk is imported into and exported from the UK in two forms, as raw milk for processing by dairies (Table 1), or as liquid drinking milk (e.g. pasteurised or UHT milk) (Table 2).

Raw milk is only traded across the Irish border, that is raw milk imports come from the Republic of Ireland for processing by dairies in Northern Ireland, and vice versa.

Table 1: UK imports and exports of raw milk for processing (all trade across the Irish Border)

			Million litres
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Total imports	33.3	57.1	48.5
Total exports	617.3	537.6	559.2

Source:
DARDNI.

Table 2: UK imports and exports of liquid drinking milk in 2006 to 2008

			Million litres
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Total imports	84.4	87.7	134.1
Total exports	511.7	423.0	456.9

Table 3: UK imports and exports of milk powder in 2006 to 2008

			Tonnes
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Total imports	51,387	60,561	65,693
Total exports	96,333	105,186	98,100

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs.

Milk: Prices

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average price per litre paid to *(a)* farmers, *(b)* purchasers and *(c)* supermarkets for milk was in each year since 1997. [291926]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following tables show annual UK farmgate and retail milk prices. No information is available on prices paid at all other points in the supply chain.

The farmgate price is calculated from monthly surveys of milk purchasers conducted in England and Wales by DEFRA, in Scotland by RERAD and in Northern Ireland by DARD. The farmgate price is the average price received by producers, net of delivery charges. No deduction has been made for superlevy.

UK farmgate milk price

	Units (pence per litre)
1997	22
1998	19
1999	18
2000	17
2001	19
2002	17
2003	18
2004	18
2005	18
2006	18
2007	21
2008	26

Source:
DEFRA

Average retail prices are published monthly by the ONS.

UK annual average retail price of whole milk

	Units (pence per litre)
1997	62
1998	60
1999	60
2000	60
2001	65
2002	63
2003	64
2004	62
2005	61
2006	61
2007	65
2008	74

Source:
ONS

National Bee Unit: Manpower

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bee disease inspectors were employed by the National Bee Unit in each year since 2004. [291913]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of bee inspectors employed by the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) in England and Wales each year since 2004 are as follows:

	Number
2004	45
2005	45
2006	45
2007	45
2008	45
2009	63

These figures include eight full-time regional bee inspectors and the national bee inspector. The remainder are seasonal bee inspectors who are employed for the active beekeeping season. Details of the work undertaken by the NBU's bee inspectors can be found on the NBU website at:

www.nationalbeeunit.com

Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average cost to each farm of implementation of the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008. [292408]

Huw Irranca-Davies: An estimate of the average cost to each farm of implementing the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 has not been made.

The estimated annual cost to the agricultural sector of implementing the regulations is in the range £48,500,000 to £68,600,000. The UK's successful negotiation of a derogation from the livestock manure N farm limit, one of the more demanding requirements set by the nitrates directive, means these costs could be reduced by £16,900,000 to £21,700,000 per annum.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants his Department makes available for the construction of slurry storage in nitrate vulnerable zones. [292404]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are not intending to provide a capital grant scheme for the construction of slurry stores. Past experience has shown that this may simply increase supply prices and merely postpone the impact of market forces.

Slurry storage facilities are eligible for plant and machinery allowances such as the annual investment allowance, capped at £50,000 per year. Slurry pits also qualify for allowances in their own right under the Capital Allowances Act 2001.

Poaching

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the maximum penalty for an offence of poaching is; and what statutes govern the offence of poaching. [292368]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Some statutes specifically refer to the offence of poaching; others make it an offence to illegally take or kill wildlife in certain circumstances.

The main statutes governing poaching are: the Game Act 1931 (maximum penalty £5,000); the Poaching Prevention Act 1862 (maximum penalty £1,000); and the Night Poaching Acts 1828 and 1844 (maximum penalty £2,500 and/or six months imprisonment).

Statutes carrying a penalty for the illegal taking or killing of certain wildlife species are: the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (maximum penalty £5,000 and or/six months imprisonment); the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 (the maximum penalty is an unlimited fine and/or up to two years imprisonment); and the Deer Act 1991 (maximum penalty of £2,500 and/or three months imprisonment).

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to ensure that British Standards relating to the welfare of chickens reared for meat production are maintained following the introduction of EU Council Directive 2007/43/EC; and if he will make a statement. [291816]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are currently considering the responses received to our 12-week public consultation on the transposition of council directive 2007/43 for the protection of chickens kept for meat.

At present there is no specific detailed legislation in place regarding meat chicken welfare other than the very general requirements contained within the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007. Council directive 2007/43 is a big step forward into looking at the welfare of meat chickens and is unique in that it is the first piece of EU welfare legislation which looks at welfare outcomes as well as prescribing the conditions in which chickens should be kept.

The new European rules do therefore for the first time produce a legal baseline for all producers, including those who do not participate in any voluntary assurance schemes, while complementing, not replacing, existing voluntary assurance schemes of which many farmers are already a part.

Poultry: Feathers

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantity of poultry feathers were imported from each East Asian country in each of the last five years. [291912]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides details of the imports of bird feathers from East Asian countries as recorded, in the Official Overseas Trade Statistics, for the period 2004 to 2008.

UK imports of bird feathers from East Asian countries for 2004 to 2008

					Tonnes
Description	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*

Description	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	Tonnes *2008*
Bird Feathers	Bangladesh	—	—	—	—	1
	China	1,867	1,268	1,389	1,965	1,775
	Hong Kong	21	1	78	15	1
	India	1	0	0	0	0
	Pakistan	13	—	—	—	—
	Singapore	0	—	—	—	—
	Taiwan	817	992	1,163	1,247	1,189
	Vietnam	52	—	—	—	—
Bird Feathers Total		2,771	2,262	2,630	3,228	2,966

Notation:
0 = quantity less than half the unit shown.
— = nil values.
Source:
HM Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Economics and Statistics Programme, DEFRA.

Private Finance Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have participated in the private finance initiative credits scheme announced in the Budget 2009 to date; and how many have made applications for participation which are under consideration. [291688]

Dan Norris: There have been 37 waste projects which have participated in the Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI) credits scheme since it began.

The 37 individual projects represent 53 waste disposal authorities working in partnership with 120 local authorities.

A further seven projects (consisting of 16 waste disposal authorities covering 34 local authorities) have applied to participate in the PFI scheme. Their applications are under consideration.

Full details can be found on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/fundinq/pfi/projects.htm

Property Development: Worksop

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* correspondence, *(b)* emails and *(c)* telephone calls have taken place between the Environment Agency and Bassetlaw District Council and its development partners concerning the development of Turner Road in Worksop in the last 12 months. [292308]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The Environment Agency has had no contact over the last 12 months with the developer or their consultants in relation to the leisure development at Turner Road, Worksop.

Over the last three weeks, the Environment Agency and Bassetlaw District Council have been in contact regarding Turner Road. The details of these conversations will be placed in the House Library.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what delays in the Turner Road development site in Worksop have resulted from Environment Agency interventions in the last 12 months. [292389]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Environment Agency is not aware that it has caused any delays in relation to the proposed leisure development at Turner Road, Worksop over the last 12 months.

Ragwort: Weed Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to establish the number of local authorities which remove ragwort from grass verges. [291930]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not hold information about weed clearance activities by local authorities. Responsibility for clearance of ragwort and other weeds on grass verges rests with the local authority in respect of minor roads and with the Highways Agency in respect of motorways and trunk roads.

Rights of Way

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Definitive Map Modification Orders he has determined without holding a local inquiry or hearing in circumstances where in his opinion representations or objections to an Order were irrelevant to the determination of that Order. [291948]

Huw Irranca-Davies: During the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, five Definitive Map Modification Orders were determined without holding a local inquiry or hearing in circumstances where representations or objections to an order were considered irrelevant to the determination of that order. Figures are not available for any earlier period.

Sheep: Tagging

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on farmers of the introduction of electronic sheep tagging. [291929]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Impact Assessments were published in March as part of a wider public consultation on the implementation of electronic identification of sheep in England. A final Impact Assessment will accompany implementing legislation later this year.

Supermarkets

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on the regulation of supermarket trading practices. [291927]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers are currently considering the recommendations of the Competition Commission.

Water Charges

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to his Department's press release of 14 July 2009 on surface water drainage charges, DEFRA Minister pledges action on rain tax, what the timetable is for the introduction of new guidance to water companies. [292227]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government announced on 28 September that they will bring forward legislation to enable water and sewerage companies to operate concessionary schemes for community groups for surface water drainage charges. The legislation will be brought in as part of a Flood and Water Management Bill at the earliest opportunity.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 October 2009

TREASURY

Banks: Government Assistance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse has been of the Government's financial holdings in *(a)* Northern Rock, *(b)* Bradford and Bingley, *(c)* RBS, *(d)* Lloyds Banking Group, *(e)* HBOS, *(f)* Barclays and *(g)* HSBC to date; and what estimate he has made of such costs in the next 12 months. [292945]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1924W, for details of the Government's financial support, including the Government's equity investments, provided to Northern Rock, Bradford and Bingley, Royal Bank of Scotland and the Lloyds Banking Group. As at 31 March 2009 the Government had no equity investments in Barclays or HSBC. Budget 2009 reported that the Government provisionally estimates that the net losses arising from all financial stability interventions may lie within a potential range from £20 billion to £50 billion (1½ to 3½ per cent. of GDP).

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to increase the proportion of loan guaranteed by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme from 75 per cent. [292931]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The current level of the guarantee on an individual EFG loan ensures both that the scheme meets the state aid requirements as set by the European Commission and that the banks take enough risk on each loan to ensure that they have sufficient incentive to make considered commercial decisions on each application.

The level of guarantee will be one element considered in any decisions on the future of the scheme. However, it must be balanced with considerations such as: state aid limits; risk sharing with banks; responsible use of public money; and affordability considerations.

Co-operation on Debt Recovery

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 September 2009 on Co-operation on debt recovery, what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who owe money to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and who are in receipt of benefit payments from the Department for Work and Pensions by benefit type; what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the total debt which is owed to HMRC by these individuals; and how many full-time equivalent officials from his Department will be involved in operating this trial. [292910]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. Work to design the trial is still under way.

Real Estate Investment Trust

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of *(a)* halving and *(b)* abolishing the entry charge to become a Real Estate Investment Trust. [292900]

Mr. Timms: No such estimates have been made.

UK Financial Investments

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when UK Financial Investments Limited will publish a set of *(a)* indicators and *(b)* benchmarks against which its performance can be measured. [292924]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: UKFI set out its approach to indicators and benchmarks in the "UKFI Strategy: Market Investments and Annual Report and Accounts 2008/09" available at:

www.ukfi.gov.uk

Treasury is working with UKFI to formulate these.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to place UK Financial Investments Limited on a statutory basis. [292922]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government have no plans to bring forward legislation to establish UK Financial Investments Limited on a statutory basis.

UK Financial Investments: Location

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when it was decided that UK Financial Investments Limited should relocate to premises outside HM Treasury; and what the reasons were for that decision. [292920]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The decision to relocate was taken by UKFI. UKFI has kept the question of its location under review, noting Treasury Select Committee recommendations, and announced on 28 July 2009 that it would be moving from the Treasury premises.

UK Financial Investments: Public Appointments

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects UK Financial Investments Limited to appoint a new Chief Executive to replace John Kingman. [292921]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: UKFI is managing the recruitment process for John Kingman's successor as CEO, through public advertisements and a financial sector head-hunter.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much compensation was paid to *(a)* soldiers wounded in Afghanistan and *(b)* dependent relatives of soldiers killed or seriously wounded in Afghanistan under the War Pension Scheme in financial year 2008-09; [292942]

(2) how much compensation was paid under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme to dependent relatives of personnel killed in Afghanistan as *(a)* guaranteed income payments and *(b)* other payments in financial year 2008-09; [292943]

(3) how much compensation was paid to soldiers wounded in Afghanistan under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme as *(a)* lump sum payments and *(b)* guaranteed income payments in financial year 2008-09. [292944]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The accounting records for both the War Pension Scheme and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme do not capture the geographical or operational details to which the injuries relate. Therefore, it is not possible to provide how much was paid in compensating injured Service Personnel in 2008-09 specifically as a result of a particular conflict. The total expenditure under the War Pension Scheme for Financial Year 2008-09 was approximately £1 billion. The total expenditure, on a cash accounting basis, under the AFCS in Financial Year 2008-09 was £33.4 million. This amount comprises three elements as follows:

	£
Lump sum payments to wounded personnel	30,100,000
Guaranteed income payments to wounded personnel	579,000
Guaranteed income payments to dependents of killed personnel	2,700,000

In addition, on an actuarial basis, the scheme has future liabilities estimated at £352.4 million in respect of service related injuries already sustained but unclaimed at 31 March 2009 and the future value of the Guaranteed Income Payments.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Ridgeback vehicles were operational in and *(b)* Ridgeback qualified drivers were in theatre on (i) 30 June, (ii) 31 July and (iii) 31 August 2009. [291568]

Bill Rammell: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Defence Medical Services

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the extent to which armed forces *(a)* medical personnel and *(b)* medical personnel in pinch point trades are in breach of the single service harmony guidelines. [291725]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no medical pinch point trades in the naval service. Other naval medical trades and RAF medical pinch point trades in breach of harmony guidelines are given in the table.

The Army, being the last service to transfer to the Joint Personnel Administration System, does not yet have sufficient data to provide meaningful statistics, although units in theatre are actively monitoring and managing the level of separated service for individual personnel. A complete period of data should become available in the new year.

Royal Navy medical trades with harmony breaches	*Percentage of current population breaching harmony*
QARNNS Ratings	0.5
Medical Assistants (General Service)	0.6
Medical Assistants (Royal Marine)	2.6
RAF Medical Pinch Point	
Medical Branch (all RAF doctors)	4.0
Medical Nursing Officer	6.0

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his Department's research budget has been allocated to the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory in each year from 2009-10 to 2012-13. [291960]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department currently plans to place contracts with the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) to the value of £204 million in 2009-10 out of a total research budget of £471 million. Contracts beyond 2009-10 have not yet been finalised.

Departmental Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what categories of personal information on members of the public will be held on each of his Department's and its agency's databases expected to become operational in the next five years; what estimate he has made of the likely number of individuals' details each such database will hold when fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [286495]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ministry of Defence officials are currently collating and validating the data needed to answer these questions. I will write to the hon. Member before the summer recess.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Jenny Willott:

I undertook to write to you in response to your Parliamentary Questions on 14 July, (Official Report, column 270W) and 21 July (Official Report, column 1197W) on existing and planned MOD databases which contain personal information on members of the public.

The following table provides details of the main MOD databases which hold personal information on members of the public. In some of these databases the majority of information held will relate to members of the Services or MOD civilian personnel however we have included them as there may also be information relating to the public e.g. an unsuccessful applicant for a vacancy.

Name and purpose of database	*Categories of personal information held on members of the public*	*Year in which database became operational(and year from which specific categories of information were collected - if different)*
Joint Personnel Administration	The following information is held as Emergency Contact information:	April 2006 for RAF personnel, November 2006 for Royal Navy personnel, The data was extracted from each service's legacy system which had in turn developed paper files from the 1960s onwards.
Military Personnel HR	Title, First name, Middle name, Surname Post-nominal, Email address, Relationship, Relationship start date Whether Emergency Contact, is legal Next of Kin, Whether Primary Contact, Main postal address, Contact telephone, number(s) (home, work, mobile etc)	
Warrantor 2 Warrantor is the Defence Vetting Agency's (DVA) vetting database, it is used to process and store the results of security vetting applications received.	Information provided by vetting subjects[1] as part of the Security Questionnaire: Name, Address, Date of birth Current occupation, Previous occupations and addresses, Financial information, Details of family members etc - Credit reference check, criminal record check, medical information and Security Service check as required for the level of vetting application	2001
Defence Vetting Agency E-form	As Warrantor 2 – The database stores Security Questionnaire information electronically for a limited number of Security Check/ Counter Terrorist Check National Security Vetting applications	2008
Defence Vetting Agency Warrantor 2 Support Services Database Queries Warrantor to list names and addresses of Referees and Subjects to produce address labels for sending out Vetting Information leaflets and covering letters	Names and addresses of Referees and Subjects	2004
Defence Vetting Agency File Tracker Keeps a record of all paper files held by the DVA	Names and dates of birth of vetting subjects	2002
Defence Vetting Agency Feedback database Holds records of all formal complaints, correspondence and feedback received by the DVA.	Names, addresses, contact details	2006
Defence Vetting Agency VMA database Keeps a record of cases that have been referred to the Vetting Medical Adviser and the outcome	Name, contact details, Doctor's Information, Medical details	2004
Defence Vetting Agency EA(D)S Criminal records Bureau databases (3) Holds details about the progress of disclosure records for CRB applications.	Information provided by the vetting subject as part of the Application Form: name, date of birth, details of position for which Disclosure is being requested, Address of initiating Unit. Disclosure level, stage dates and invoice details, result indicator and employment decision	2008
DAS LOW FLYING Details of complaints concerning Low Flying activity in the UK	Name, Address, telephone number, mobile number e-mail address	1995
LoCMIS- Low flying Complaints Management Information System Details of complaints concerning Low Flying activity in the UK	Name, Address, telephone number, mobile number, e-mail address	Database created – 2003 Information stored from 2005
RAF Police Taskings and Breach Database Details of complaints that have been referred to the Defence Flying Complaints Investigation Team	Name, Address, telephone number, mobile number, e-mail address	1995
Unified Force Information (UNIFI)		

Name and purpose of database	*Categories of personal information held on members of the public*	*Year in which database became operational(and year from which specific categories of information were collected - if different)*
UNIFI is the MDPGA (MOD Police and Guarding Agency) crime recording and intelligence database.	Names, addresses etc and intelligence	November 2007
MDPGA (Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency) Command and Control A system to record police incidents and police action	Names and addresses of members of public.	May 2004
MDPGA (Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency) HOLMES 2 (Home Office Large Major Enquiry System)	The following information is recorded or. victims of crime and witnesses: First Names, Maiden Name, Alias/Nicknames, Occupation, Employer, Title, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, Gender, Ethnicity, Description, Nationality, Height, Source of Information i.e., from statement form	November 2000
Centurion Centurion processes information relating to the misconduct of police officers and complaints from members of the public	Names and addresses of complainants and witnesses.	January 1991
E-Visitor Pro X Management of administration and production of visitor day passes to Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency site.	Names. addresses of visitors to (MDPGA) Wethersfield	May 2004
Computerised Admin System for Assessment of Police Recruits (CASA).	Names, addresses etc of potential MDP recruits.	April 2006
Access to Information Toolkit (AIT) Tracking, logging and storing the final answers for all Freedom of Information requests received centrally by MOD	First and surname, profession, address (email and postal), phone and fax numbers, request details, whether vexatious or not, details of the handling of the request (when received, when sent etc). Copy of correspondence received and sent (therefore could include handwriting, signature). All fields are optional except name (though could be believable pseudonym) and either written or email contact address	January 2005
FOI Master Request List Annual database of all FOI requests received. Drawn from AIT	Name of requestor, then full then full details of the request status	2005
SMS (Squadron Management System) Management and administration of Air Cadet Organisation (AGO) Squadrons and cadet activities	Addresses, Contact Details, Commendations/Awards, DEA Qualifications, Medical (Information on allergies or conditions that would affect Cadet activities or Camps and is accessible only by the OC Sqn and the staff assigned by the OC as per paper records). Promotions, Posting, Flying Logs, Shooting Logs	2006
STS_Bader_BLJ Database supporting document collaboration system used to distribute Air Cadet Organisation publications and forms.	Name, contact Phone and e-mail	2006
Westminster (Cadet Force Management for Sea Cadet Corps /Army Cadet Force /Combined Cadet Force)	Names, Ranks, DOB, Ethnicity Religion, Marital Status, Address, Contact Numbers, Next of Kin, Medical, Doctor, Schools, Dietary, Qualifications, Awards, Driving Licence, CRB, Course/Event Attendance, Remuneration	2007 (All Categories)
Universe Air Cadet Organisation Pay and Personnel System	Addresses, Contact Details, Promotions, Postings, Courses, Commendations/Awards, Bank Records, Remuneration Records, Travel Claims,	1986

Name and purpose of database	*Categories of personal information held on members of the public*	*Year in which database became operational(and year from which specific categories of information were collected - if different)*
PenServer Details of married members of the PCSPS (Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme)	Contact details for nominees of death benefits. Contact and bank account details where widow/children's pensions are in payment due to death in service of member, plus dates of birth where children are under 18 and details for guardians where there are no surviving parents	2000
Human Resources Management System (HRMS)	Employees: Next of Kin contact details, Emergency contact details	2002 (staged creation of records, process completed by March 2004).
	Unsuccessful External Applicants for MOD	Although always possible to record details for external applicants, process not widely adopted until mid-2005.
	Vacancies: Contact details, National Insurance Number*, Date of Birth*, Ethnic Group*, National Identity*, Disability*, Gender*, Sexual Orientation*, Personal Accomplishments (qualifications, licences, memberships etc) and contact details for referees/former employers (* Where provided)	
Civilian Harmonised Integrated Pay System (CHIPS)	Dates of birth for dependent children in cases where certain allowances have been claimed by staff working overseas.	2007
Subject Access Requests and Information Database (SID)	Contact details for individuals who have sought information from People, Pay and Pensions Agency under the Freedom of Information Act or Data Protection Act.	2009
Central Health Records Library - Cqube Index of medical records that were microfilmed or scanned	Name, Date of Birth	1996
NIGEL Press database	Limited and authorised contact details as supplied by journalists and charities are retained on NIGEL for use in distributing press releases, identifying contacts for business purposes.	2007
ICARAS On-line Recruiting Database	Name, Address, DOB, National Insurance number	2005
TRHJ Recruiting Database operating within MOD network	Name, Address, DOB, National Insurance number, NOK, Bank Details	2007
ORMISII Officer Selection Database	Name, Address, DOB, National Insurance number	2004
TAFMIS-T Training Database	Name, Address, DOB, National Insurance number, Course Information	1996
Parliamentary Toolkit: 1. For recording and processing correspondence from MPs written on behalf of constituents 2. For recording and processing letters from the public addressed to Ministers.	Name Address Summary of the issue	2003

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[1] Vetting Subjects are those for whom National Security Vetting inquiries have taken place. These are primarily MOD and other public service civilians, members of the armed forces and workers in the Defence industry. Further information is available at www.dva.mod.uk

There are likely to be additional smaller databases which contain personal information on members of the public, for example it is common practice for Military units to maintain lists of appropriate members of their local community to whom they will extend invitations to social and other occasions. Details of these and other equivalent databases are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

There are also a small number of databases whose details are being withheld for the purposes of safeguarding national security or whose disclosure would prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

All information is collected and retained in accordance with the Data Protection Act. The following table provides details of known future MOD databases, subject to the same exemptions as above, which will hold personal information on members of the public.

Name and purpose of database	*Categories of personal information that will be held on members of the public*	*Your database expected to become operational*	*Estimated number of records that will be held*
Cerberus Will replace Warrantor as the Defence Vetting Agency main database to process and store the results of security vetting applications received	All information currently held by Warrantor, E-form pilot, feedback database and VMA database	2010	When the Cerberus database is complete and functional, it will hold approximately two million records. This represents all cases where the Defence Vetting Agency has received applications for National Security Vetting inquiries since its establishment in 2000, as well as historical records transferred from the Service Vetting Units that preceded the DVA.
File Trail Replacement for DVA File tracker	Names and dates of birth of vetting subjects	2009-10	290,000 records Approximately

These new databases becoming operational over the next five years are primarily upgrades and replacements for existing systems and do not substantially change the nature or volume of MOD's data holdings.

Nepal: Helicopters

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcomes were of his Department's investigation into alleged corruption linked to the gifting of two MI-17 helicopters from the Conflict Prevention Fund to the Royal Nepal Army in 2002; and if he will make a statement. [289328]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, whether the investigation found evidence of wrongdoing short of criminality in the procurement of the helicopters. [292911]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, what assistance was provided by the *(a)* government and *(b)* army of Nepal to the investigation. [292912]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The investigation had no direct engagement with either the Government or the army of Nepal. Any relevant documentation received from the Government or the army of Nepal was passed to the Ministry of Defence Police Fraud Squad by the UK Ministry of Defence.

Trident: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 848W, on Trident: Scotland, (1) how many of the 589 civilians at HM Naval Base Clyde whose jobs directly rely upon the Trident programme are employed in *(a)* engineering and science, *(b)* logistics, *(c)* security, *(d)* health and safety, *(e)* outfitting and steel work and *(f)* other areas; [260953]

(2) how many of the 589 civilians at HM Naval Base Clyde whose jobs directly rely upon the Trident programme are resident in *(a)* Argyll and Bute constituency, *(b)* West Dunbartonshire constituency, *(c)* elsewhere in Scotland and *(d)* outside Scotland; [260954]

(3) what the *(a)* skills requirements and *(b)* geographic distribution of the 250 indirect civilian jobs relating to support activities for the Trident programme in Scotland are. [260955]

Mr. Hutton: The information requested is not held by my Department in that format.

Action is ongoing, however, to update the December 2006 figures as part of a broader package of work. I will write to my hon. Friend when this work is complete.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Katy Clark:

In answer to your Written Questions on 9 March, (Official Report, column 178W) the then Secretary of State undertook to write to you on completion of a package of work that was being carried out to update the number of civilian jobs in Scotland that directly rely upon the Trident programme.

This exercise has now been completed and a breakdown of civilian jobs by skill and home location at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde, including Faslane and Coulport, directly reliant upon the Trident programme is provided below.

Skill	*Ministry of Defence*	*Babcock Marine*	*Total*
Engineering and Science	85	197	282
Logistics	22	22	44
Health and Safety	0	1	1
Outfitting and Steel Work	0	0	0
Other areas(1)	40	25	65
Total	147	245	392
Lockheed Martin UK Strategic Systems: breakdown by skill set is unavailable	—	—	72
Total civilian jobs directly reliant on Trident	—	—	464

Location	*Ministry of Defence*	*Babcock Marine*	*Total*
Argyll and Bute	74	66	140
West Dumbartonshire	48	104	152
Elsewhere in Scotland	25	75	100
Outside Scotland	0	0	0
Total	147	245	392
Lockheed Martin UK Strategic Systems: breakdown in terms of home location is unavailable	—	—	72
Total civilian jobs directly reliant on Trident	—	—	464

Notes:
1. Figures shown are as at March 2009 and based on individuals employed.
2. Ministry of Defence Police and Ministry of Defence Guard Service have not been included in this exercise. This information is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security and defence.
3. Posts with the Strategic Weapon System heading have been considered Trident-related.

Unfortunately, however, some of the information is not held in the format you requested. The revised figure of 464 civilian jobs that directly rely on the Trident programme in Scotland reflects the position as at March 2009. This excludes any Ministry of Defence Guard Service or Ministry of Defence Police posts because this figure is being withheld for the purpose of safeguarding national security and defence.

It is estimated that there are a further 200 indirect civilian jobs in Scotland relating to support activities on the Trident programme. Officials have confirmed that information relating to indirect civilian jobs was derived using national multipliers as published by the Scottish Executive on 31 March 2009, for the ship building, weapons and ammunition, instruments industries and project management/business service as appropriate. It is, therefore, not possible to break out this information in terms of skills and location.

I hope this information is useful.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Retail Trade

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what best practice guidance his Department has issued on high quality architecture and design for retail premises. [292627]

Mr. Ian Austin: In March 2005 we published 'Planning for Town Centres: Guidance on Design and Implementation tools'. This guidance supports Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS6): 'Planning for town centres' and deals specifically with design issues relating to planning for town centres, including retail premises.

Business Improvement Districts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to publish guidance on the use of *(a)* business rate supplements (BRS) and *(b)* BRS business improvement district levies. [292634]

Barbara Follett: In January, CLG jointly with HMT, published for consultation draft guidance on BRS. This was followed in May by volume one of the statutory guidance, which focused on ballots and on how to assess compliance with the additionality test. CLG and HMT intend to publish shortly further statutory guidance on the use of BRS revenue and the governance arrangements for BRS projects. This final guidance will also incorporate the guidance published in May.

During the passage of the BRS Bill through Parliament, the Government made a commitment to consider and consult on the principle of BRS-BIDs and then to consult on the detail of the policy. Government will set out its intentions on BRS-BIDs in due course.

Community Development: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has provided to local community groups from the Communitybuilders fund to date. [292887]

Barbara Follett: No payments have been made from the fund to date. The fund opened for applications on 7 September 2009. Since then, the consortium led by Adventure Capital Fund (ACF), which is delivering the programme on behalf of Communities and Local Government and the Office of the Third Sector, has received about 1,500 inquiries. These are in the process of being assessed and the first offers of funding to community groups will be made in November.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the notification of the provisions of section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 following the entry into force of the community infrastructure levy provisions of the Planning Act 2008; and if he will make a statement. [292713]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government's policy on the use of Planning Obligations under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 is set out in Government Circular 05/2005. As part of the Government's consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which was launched on 30 July 2009 and will conclude on 23 October 2009, the Government have stated their intention to make changes to the operation of section 106 following the introduction of CIL. Details of the Government's proposals are set out in chapter 5 of the CIL consultation document.

Conferences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which conferences held outside member states of the European Union have been attended by representatives of his Department in the last 12 months. [292873]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* a local authority with a below-average council tax collection rate is compensated in the local government finance settlement formula for the reduced revenue from council tax and *(b)* a local authority with an above-average council tax collection rate has its additional revenue equalised away. [292549]

Barbara Follett: A council's performance on collecting council tax does not affect the amount of formula grant it receives.

Council Tax: Carers

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken to publicise the council tax reduction available to those who care for a disabled person. [292823]

Barbara Follett: The Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2003 places a statutory duty on billing authorities to provide information with the council tax demand notice on the circumstances under which council tax can be reduced through a discount disregard or exemption.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to repeal the legislation that allows him to initiate a council tax revaluation in England by statutory instrument. [292641]

Barbara Follett: Repeal of section 22(b) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 would require primary legislation. The Government have no plans to ask Parliament to approve such legislation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a council is compensated via the local government finance settlement for a smaller tax base as a consequence of households successfully appealing against their council tax banding and moving to a lower band. [293156]

Barbara Follett: The distribution of formula grant to local authorities in England takes account of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the authority, together with its relative ability to raise council tax, expressed in terms of the council tax base. We then ensure that every authority receives at least a minimum percentage increase (the 'floor') year-on-year on a like-for-like basis. In order to pay for the cost of the floor, we scale back the increase in grant above the floor for other authorities.

Since the introduction of multi-year settlements, we have used projected tax base data in the calculation of formula grant. The starting point for the tax base projections used in the current three-year settlement, covering 2008-09 to 2010-11, is the tax base as at 8 October 2007 adjusted for student exemptions. This is then increased annually by the Secretary of State's estimate of the average annual increase in the tax base for the authority between 10 October 2005 and 8 October 2007.

If a household moved into a lower band before the 8 October 2007, then this will be reflected in the tax base figures for the local authority that were used in the current tax base calculations. If a change in tax band has occurred since this date, then this will not be reflected until the 2011-12 settlement when the data are next updated.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many laptop computers issued to staff of his Department in each of the last five years were issued to *(a)* new staff and *(b)* existing staff following the (i) loss or (ii) theft of a previous device. [290377]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government does not record centrally whether or not laptop computers were specifically issued to new or existing staff, or if they are issued as replacements for lost/stolen devices. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All departmental laptops have hard drive encryption deployed and require two factor authentication to access the CLG corporate network. CLG staff are required to complete information assurance training in line with cross government requirements.

I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Reigate (Mr. Blunt) on 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 190W.

Departmental Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the annual cost to his Department of maintaining and updating its Twitter account; and how many staff are responsible for updating the account. [292881]

Barbara Follett: The corporate Twitter account is maintained as part of the routine business of the Department's web team alongside other social media channels. The pay cost has not been disaggregated.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many speech writers his Department employs on *(a)* permanent and *(b)* fixed-term contracts. [292749]

Barbara Follett: The Department currently employs two full-time speechwriters on permanent contracts. In addition, a third permanently contracted speechwriter is shared between and co-funded by Communities and Local Government and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in each division of his Department received bonus payments in the last year for which figures are available. [292588]

Barbara Follett: Information is not stored on our systems in a way that will allow us to provide this information by division. However, the following table shows the number of staff in CLG who received bonus payments in 2008:

Category of employee	*Scheme*	*Number of employees (approx.)*	*Number of employees who received awards in 2008*
Senior Civil Service (SCS)	SCS Annual Performance Bonuses	150	102
All Staff below SCS	CLG Performance Awards	1,982	570

Please note the numbers of employees in the table above excludes employees on unpaid special leave, outward loans and secondments but includes inward loads and secondments.

Final figures are not available for 2009 as the CLG annual pay award has not been implemented yet.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in his Department has been assigned responsibility for overseeing the delivery of value for money in his Department; whether his Department has established a public sector reform team to implement service reforms; and if he will make a statement. [289145]

Barbara Follett: I am the value for money Minister for this Department. The Department is committed to reforming public services to improve services for the citizen; various teams are working closely with colleagues in the centre of Government on this important agenda. We have not needed to establish a specific public sector reform team.

Eco-Towns

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department's Planning Policy Statement on eco-towns has cost to produce. [292466]

John Healey: It is not possible to cost the Department's spend on the production of the "Planning Policy Statement: eco-towns" (PPS), as the PPS has been developed as part of the Eco-towns programme and alongside our housing policies.

The cost of typesetting, printing and publishing the PPS and supporting documents including the SA Addendum, SA Statement, Impact Assessment and summary of consultation responses was £16,300.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department and its predecessor have received from civil liberties groups on empty dwelling management orders. [292637]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has not received any representations from civil liberty groups on empty dwelling management orders.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will initiate an independent review of the use of empty dwelling management order powers by local authorities. [292696]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department is making a continuous assessment of the success of empty dwelling management orders through its regular contact with local authorities and the Empty Homes Agency.

Energy Performance Certificates

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* owner-occupied, *(b)* privately rented and *(c)* social rented homes which have been issued with energy performance certificates. [292463]

John Healey: The total number of domestic energy performance certificates (EPCs) lodged on the EPC Register in the following categories, as of 4 October 2009, is as follows:

	Number
(a) Owner Occupied	2,057,346
(b) Privately Rented	871,264
(c) Social Rented	390,811

In addition we estimate that there are 236,951 EPCs recorded for newly constructed dwellings, some of which may also fall into one of these categories.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government *(a)* how many and *(b)* what percentage of (i) local authority and (ii) registered social landlord homes have been issued with energy performance certificates. [292464]

John Healey: The National Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Register records whether the properties to which EPCs relate are in the social rented sector but does not record information about whether those properties are owned by either local authorities or registered social landlords.

English Regions Network

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department is providing to the English Regions Network in 2009-10. [292580]

Mr. Ian Austin: In the current financial year the Department will provide £60,000 to the English Regions Network.

Fetes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* permits, *(b)* risk assessments and *(c)* licences required from local authorities in order to operate a fete. [292639]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his planned changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme will include changes to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme. [293010]

Barbara Follett: Within the Government's overall policies for public service pension schemes, separate regulations govern the administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme and the Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date his Department received the Homes and Communities Agency's most recent *(a)* annual report and *(b)* corporate plan; and on what date a Minister in his Department approved the publication of each. [292476]

John Healey: The Department has yet to receive a complete draft of the Homes and Communities Agency's Annual Report. The Annual Report does not require ministerial approval.

There were a number of iterations of the HCA's Corporate Plan, reflecting the additional funding allocated to the Agency announced in Budget 2009, and "Building Britain's Future". The Plan was published on 25 September, and can be found on the Agency's website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/public/documents/HCA_Corporate%20Plan_English.pdf

Housing: Construction

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new houses have been built in each county in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of these houses have been affordable. [291714]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 450W, for figures showing new affordable homes built as a proportion of all homes built. This shows estimates at regional level; equivalent estimates at county level could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

There is some information on all new build by local authority available in Live Table 253:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140921.xls

on the CLG website. This information however is incomplete for some local authorities and therefore it is not possible to produce estimates of the proportion that are affordable.

A table has been placed in the House Library showing the number of new affordable homes built in each county by year.

Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much he expects the Homes and Communities Agency to reclaim from registered social landlords under the Recycled Capital Grant Receipts Programme in each of the next three years; [292457]

(2) what the total level of *(a)* expired and *(b)* current Recycled Capital Grant Receipts Programme funding unclaimed by the Homes and Communities Agency was in (i) each of the last 12 quarters and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available; [292458]

(3) what the monetary value of reclamations made by the Homes and Communities Agency through the Recycled Capital Grant Receipts Programme was in each of the last 12 quarters. [292459]

John Healey: The following table shows the amount held in the Recycled Capital Grant Fund at the end of the last three financial years and the total the amount which had been held for over three years. Figures are only available by year.

£ million

As at 31 March:	*RCGF closing balance*	*Of which: Over three years old*
2007	418	0.9
2008	493	0.6
2009[1]	496	1.8

[1] Figures for year ending 31 March 2009 are provisional.

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

Where deposits in the Recycled Capital Grant Fund are older than three years, the Homes and Communities Agency may grant an extension for their use past the three year recovery date.

The total amounts reclaimed by the Homes and Communities Agency from the Recycled Capital Grant Fund by quarter for the past three years are shown in the following table:

	£
2006-07	
Q1	384,500
Q2	1,215,428
Q3	576,292
Q4	730,539
2007-08	
Q1	240,116
Q2	729,747
Q3	186,618
Q4	600,000
2008-09	
Q1	0
Q2	683,643
Q3	124,916
Q4	0

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

There are no future estimates of amounts that may be reclaimed by the Homes and Communities Agency from the Recycled Capital Grant Fund.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bids for capital funding were received by the Homes and Communities Agency from *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* private housebuilders in each of the last three years; what the monetary value of bids in each category was; how many housing units this represented; and how many applications (i) were accepted, (ii) were rejected and (iii) are awaiting a decision. [292466]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was established on 1 December 2008. From that date to the end of the 2008-09 financial year, 5,674 bids for capital funding were recorded as received by the HCA; two from *(a)* local authorities, 3,887 from *(b)* registered social landlords and 1,805 from *(c)* unregistered bodies (including but not exclusively private housebuilders). Bids from *(a)* local authorities amounted to £4 million and 85 housing units[1]; from *(b)* registered social landlords amounted to £3,505.5 million and 49,200 units; and from *(c)* unregistered bodies amounted to £652.7 million and 16,400 units.

As at the end of March 2009, 3,126 bids had been accepted, 503 rejected and 2,065 were pending.

[1] "Housing units" will include bedspaces and bedrooms in the case of the Places of Change programme, which funds hostel accommodation.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many revisions have been made to the Code of Sustainable Homes since it was first published; and when the most recent version of the document was published. [292354]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) was introduced in England in April 2007 as a voluntary national standard for the design and construction of new sustainable homes. The Code Technical Guidance, which sets out the Code Standards was produced for the Code's launch in April 2007. There is a requirement for ongoing revision and updates to this guidance at appropriate points to reflect changes in Building and other regulations, to clarify language and to respond to feedback from the construction industry and other stakeholders.

All changes to date have been made with the involvement of stakeholders including house builders, product manufacturers, etc and considered by the Code Technical Guide Advisory Group. Published versions of the Code are April 2007, October 2007, April 2008, October 2008 and May 2009. As the Code Standard becomes more established and understanding of how to build sustainable homes improves, there will be less frequent updates. Communities and Local Government is continuing to engage its stakeholders in this process.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether power showers are permitted to be installed in homes which meet the requirements of level 6 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [292726]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1114SW.

Local Government Services: Elderly

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial obligations will apply to local authorities in relation to plans for a National Care Service and free personal care for the elderly. [292587]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The Care and Support Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" contains two options around the extent of the responsibilities of local authorities and national Government in allocating funds for the National Care Service. We are currently consulting on the design of the new National Care Service. No decisions will be taken until this process is complete.

The Prime Minister's announcement of free personal care in the home for those with the highest needs will be funded from reprioritised central budgets, and local authorities will reprioritise and use savings from efficiency measures. We will be working with stakeholders to make sure other services are not affected.

Local Government: Executives

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what terms of reference were given to the Audit Commission in its investigation of the regulation of financial agreements between local authorities and chief executives who leave before the end of the term of their contract. [292869]

Barbara Follett: The Audit Commission has been asked to research pay-offs for senior local authority employees and their subsequent re-employment by another authority. It is for the Audit Commission to determine any terms of reference.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many households accepted an offer to purchase their home through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in *(a)* July and *(b)* August 2009; [292467]

(2) how many households received an offer to purchase their home from a registered social landlord in *(a)* July and *(b)* August 2009; [292468]

(3) how many households applied for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme in *(a)* July and *(b)* August 2009; [292469]

(4) from how many households having difficulties paying their mortgage local authorities received approaches in *(a)* July and *(b)* August 2009; and what proportion of such approaches were made by households (i) at risk of repossession and (ii) in a priority need category. [292470]

John Healey: We have acted rapidly to put in place a range of help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage, and launched a campaign to ensure households have clear information about the help available.

Mortgage rescue scheme summary monitoring statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the Department's website. Figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

We will be publishing headline data for the July to September quarter 2009 on 12 November 2009, as pre-announced on the UK Statistics Authority Publication Hub and the Department's statistical release schedule.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted (i) additional and (ii) selective licensing powers for houses in multiple occupation. [292355]

Mr. Ian Austin: Six local authorities have applied for additional licensing schemes for houses in multiple occupation (HMO). The Department has approved three schemes in the following two local authority areas; London borough of Hounslow (two schemes) and Peterborough borough council.

13 local authorities have applied for selective licensing schemes to cover all private rented properties within certain designated areas. The Department has to date approved 16 schemes in the following 11 local authority areas; Salford city council (two schemes), Middlesbrough borough council, Manchester city council (three schemes), Gateshead borough council (two schemes), Sedgefield borough council, Burnley borough council, Bolton borough council, Blackburn with Darwen borough council (two schemes), Easington district council, Hartlepool borough council and Leeds city council.

Newcastle Gateshead Housing Marketing Pathfinder

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Newcastle Gateshead Housing Marketing Pathfinder spent on plan and strategy preparation in the North Central area of Newcastle; and how much of that sum was recharged to the Pathfinder in respect of Newcastle City Council staff engaged in plan and strategy preparation. [292953]

John Healey: Detailed financial information on HMR Pathfinder activity is not collected centrally.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what conditions small firms will be required to meet in order to be eligible for small business rate relief from April 2010. [292818]

Barbara Follett: The Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) scheme will remain the same except that from 1 April 2010 the thresholds will change. An order to bring the changes into effect will be laid before the House in due course.

Business ratepayers will have to fulfil two criteria to receive SBRR:

the sole or main property that they are occupying must have a rateable value under £17,999 (£25,499 for those in Greater London); and

if they occupy any additional properties, each of the additional properties must have a rateable value of no more than £2,599,and the total rateable value of all of the properties must be less than £17,999 (£25,499 in Greater London).

Eligible ratepayers with a rateable value of £6,000 or below will receive 50 per cent. relief.

Eligible ratepayers with a rateable value between £6,001 and £12,000 will receive relief on a sliding scale 50 per cent. to 0 per cent., where every £120 rateable value equates to 1 per cent.

Eligible ratepayers with a rateable value between £12,000 and £17,999 (£25,499 in Greater London) will have their rates liability calculated using the small business non-domestic rating multiplier.

We are proposing to remove the present requirement that ratepayers must reapply for SBRR at the 2010 revaluation.

Non-Domestic Rates: Car Boot Sales

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency takes into account car boot sales that take place on a premises when rating a property for the 2010 rates revaluation. [292645]

Barbara Follett: The rateable value of a property represents its rental value in its current use. Where a property is used entirely, or on occasion, as a car boot sale site its rateable value for the 2010 revaluation should reflect any rental enhancement attributable to that use.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 590W, on non-domestic rates: Greater London, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's document, Review of sub-location codes. [292850]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the relevant section of the guidance note has already been placed in the Library.

Non-Domestic Rates: Licensed Premises

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provision of televisions showing Sky programmes by licensed premises is deemed to be a material condition that increases the premises' rateable value in respect of the Valuation Office Agency's 2010 rates revaluation. [292640]

Barbara Follett: Valuation officers will consider the presence of Sky TV and other forms of entertainment on offer as part of a wider consideration of all factors that may impact on the trading potential of a public house.

Rental values are determined in the market according to the trading potential of a pub on the assumption it is run by a reasonably efficient operator, who responds to the normal trading practices and competition of the locality in which the property is situated. Valuation officers are required to make a similar judgement when assessing public houses for business rates purposes.

This method of valuation is agreed with the industry and is a tried and tested way of valuing public houses.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received on the effect of retrospective business rates on ports in Southampton. [292574]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government has received no representations on the effect of retrospective business rates specific to the port of Southampton.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 495W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, how many sub-locations have been classified in each local billing authority or similar administrative area used by the Valuation Office Agency. [292857]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 512W.

Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the erection of tree houses require planning permission; and what changes have been made to the planning requirements for tree houses since May 1997. [289730]

Mr. Ian Austin: Recent media coverage suggesting that all tree houses need full planning permission is wrong. If a tree house does not constitute development as defined under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, no planning permission would be required.

Even in cases where a tree house is defined as development, household permitted development rights introduced in October 2008 should mean it will still be classified as permitted development and will not require planning permission.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will issue guidance to local authorities on the recourse which unsuccessful applicants may have to the courts under the new arrangements for local authority charges for pre-application planning advice. [290480]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities have the power to charge for discretionary services under Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003. Some authorities choose to charge for pre-application planning advice but under Section 93 any charge must be on a not-for-profit basis so over a year the income from charges for such services must not exceed the cost for providing them.

Where a person who has paid a discretionary service and is dissatisfied with the service provided by the local planning authority they may make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on the precautionary principle in relation to planning policy. [292881]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government's overall planning policy principles are contained in Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): Delivering Sustainable Development.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W, on planning permission: fees and charges, if he will review the mineral extraction rate fees levied on the construction of fishing lakes. [292858]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have nothing further to add.

Private Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the Homes and Communities Agency has paid to DTZ for advice in relation to the Private Rented Sector Initiative; [292473]

(2) which organisations have submitted expressions of interest to the Homes and Communities Agency in respect of its Private Rented Sector Initiative; [292474]

(3) how many expressions of interest the Homes and Communities Agency received in relation to its Private Rented Sector Initiative; and by what date he expects the Agency to have evaluated the submissions. [292475]

John Healey: Up to August 2009, the HCA has authorised payment of £163,000 to DTZ for advice and support for the engagement with the numerous private organisations which have expressed interest in the private rental sector initiative. The engagement was carried under the HCA's property panel framework contract which was competitively tendered. A further assignment of up to £70,000 for further consultancy between August and November has also been agreed between HCA and DTZ.

Our priority has been to encourage new long term institutional and other equity investors into the private rental sector. The HCA has therefore continued to work with several consortiums on the future potential of this sector of the housing market. Two investment interests have declared themselves publicly in the market to date—Aviva Investors with CBRE and Legal and General.

The HCA received 64 expressions of interest from organisations interested in the private rental sector initiative. They included developers, land and property owners, management companies, housing associations and investors in this country and abroad. The HCA is now focusing on its discussions with a small number of major investment consortia which have since come together to look at the future of this new market opportunity.

Public Bodies: Executives

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's consultation document, Amending the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (S.I., 2003, No. 533) to improve the transparency of reporting of remuneration of senior officials in public bodies, which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals to the consultation, excluding those who requested confidentiality. [292848]

Barbara Follett: A summary of the responses to the Consultation document Amending the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003, No 533) will be published on 20 October 2009. It will also provide a full list of those who have submitted written responses but exclude those who have requested confidentiality.

Regional Government: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates were made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* staffing complement of the proposed elected regional assemblies prior to the 2004 regional assembly referendum. [293353]

Mr. Ian Austin: The White Paper "Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions" published on 22 May 2002 estimated that the cost of each of the proposed elected regional assemblies would be in the order of £25 million a year with a staffing complement of around 200, excluding staff working for the regional development agency.

A copy of the White Paper can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/generalcontent/citiesandregions/publicationscities/regionalpublications/regionswhitepaper/yourregionyourchoice/

Right to Buy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Right to Buy applications were made by social housing tenants in each region in each year since 1997; and what percentage were accepted in each year. [292472]

John Healey: Figures showing the number of local authority Right to Buy applications and the number of successful applications are included in Live Table 648 on the CLG website, broken down by region and year, from 1998-99:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1319863.xls

The local authority Right to Buy data are from quarterly P1B returns from local authorities to CLG. The figures only cover applications to buy local authority properties through RTB, not registered social landlord applications. Around 80 per cent. of RTB sales in 2007-08 were local authority properties, while 20 per cent. are of properties owned by Registered Social Landlords.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Bilderberg Group

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reason the Secretary of State has not registered with the appropriate authorities his visit to the Bilderberg Conference in Greece in May 2009. [292958]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State did register the visit: he notified the permanent secretary. The estimated value of the hospitality received did not meet the threshold for declaration in the Register of Lords' Interests.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if the Secretary of State will estimate the cost of the hospitality he received pursuant to his attendance at the Bilderberg Conference in Greece in May 2009, classified by *(a)* hotel accommodation, *(b)* food and drink, *(c)* travel and *(d)* other hospitality. [292959]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State received accommodation and meals over two nights, the costs of which were estimated against commercial rates for that time of year at the hotel in question, at around £600.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff of his Department in each of the last five years. [290062]

Mr. McFadden: Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code, and all spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

For the period 2007-08 the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform spent:

(a) Car hire—£26,333

(b) Rail—£1,810,648

(c) Air—£3,218,829

(d) Hotels—£1,051,965.

For the period 2008-09 the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform spent:

(a) Car hire—£33,200

(b) Rail—£2,091,383

(c) Air—£3,265,937

(d) Hotels—£1,769,921.

Details of restaurant meals are not centrally recorded.

For the period 2007-08 the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills spent:

(a) Rail—£1,055,224

(b) Air—£148,942

(c) Hotels—£106,608.

For the period 2008-09 the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills spent:

(a) Rail—£1,345,200

(b) Air—£135,886

(c) Hotels—£256,885.

Details of car hire are included with figures for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and are not available individually.

The Department does not centrally record the travel undertaken by Ministers from that of officials; details of the previous years are not centrally recorded and to provide this information would entail disproportionate costs.

Cabinet Office provides an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety and ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Employment: Information and Communications Technology

Willie Rennie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects on the UK skills base of the outsourcing of information technology jobs overseas. [292956]

Mr. Timms: The Department has made no recent assessment, but outsourcing is only one of many factors affecting demand for IT professionals within the UK. We also recognise that there are circumstances in which it makes financial and wider business sense for UK companies to outsource an IT service. Globalisation is radically changing the digital skills needed in the UK and around the world, and the challenge for UK IT services providers is to remain competitive by moving up the value chain.

The IT services sector remains key to the UK's future prosperity—a fact recognised in the Government's "New Industry, New Jobs" and "Digital Britain" strategy documents, with the latter including recommendations for the development of a skilled and confident population, able to access and benefit from digital technology. e-skills UK, the Sector Skills Council for Business and Information Technology, is working hard to ensure that the UK has the skills for Britain to succeed in a global digital economy.

EU Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department and its predecessors of the statutory obligations upon it provided for in legislation on matters for which it is responsible which were introduced as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available. [283478]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to his previous similar parliamentary question on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1708W.

Holiday Accommodation: Taxation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with HM Treasury on the effect of the abolition of furnished holiday lettings relief on the tourism industry. [293436]

Mr. McFadden: Tax policy is a matter for Treasury. However, my officials are in regular dialogue with Treasury colleagues on a wide range of tax matters that impact on businesses, including the withdrawal of furnished holiday lettings relief.

Lord Sugar

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 7.16 of the Ministerial Code, whether Lord Sugar has consulted the Law Officers in relation to his proposed legal action against a *Daily Mail* journalist. [293014]

Mr. McFadden: Lord Sugar is not a Minister of the Crown.

Strategic Investment Fund

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many applications have been *(a)* received and *(b)* granted for funding from the Strategic Investment Fund in each month since April 2009; [292114]

(2) how many applications have been *(a)* received and *(b)* granted for the funding from the £50 million portion of the Strategic Investment Fund allocated to support business innovation to date; [292113]

(3) how many applications have been *(a)* received and *(b)* granted for the funding from the £250 million portion of the Strategic Investment Fund allocated to support renewable energy projects and low-carbon business opportunities to date; [292112]

(4) how much and what proportion of funding available from the Strategic Investment Fund has been distributed since April 2009; [292111]

(5) how much of the portion of the Strategic Investment Fund allocated for business innovation support has been distributed since April 2009; [291904]

(6) how much of the portion of the Strategic Investment Fund allocated to support renewable energy projects and low-carbon business opportunities has been distributed since April 2009. [291903]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* Over £720 million of the £750 million within the Strategic Investment Fund has already been allocated, or is earmarked for specific projects and investments. The SIF is not a fund that is open directly to companies. It is a resource that the Government are using to increase investment through existing measures—like collaborative Research and Development grants, Launch Investment for aerospace and regional Grants for Business Investment—as well as new measures such as the UK Innovation Investment Fund. Our extra support for business is delivered through these measures, not directly from the SIF. Businesses do not therefore make applications for funding from the SIF, nor do they receive funding directly from it.

We expect to spend about £200 million of the SIF by the end of this current financial year. By way of example of the projects supported, in the area of business innovation, the Technology Strategy Board has used £50 million of additional funding from the SIF to expand the scale of its ambition for a number of activities. For example, funding from the SIF, supplemented by its core funding, has been committed to projects funded under the £25 million Low Carbon Vehicle demonstrator programme. Calls worth £6 million for research have also recently opened in the area of 'Regenerative Medicine', 'High Value Manufacturing' and 'Enabling Technologies for the Internet, Applications and Services' utilising SIF funds.

The Department has published an update on the Strategic Investment Fund, and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each London borough has received in capital funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [293045]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the total payments of capital grant made to each London borough as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme to the end of financial year 2008-09.

The figures are on cash paid basis during the year, and form part of much larger allocation figures which extend over a period of years. They do not include academies delivered through the National Framework.

Total capital grant paid to end 2008-09

Local authority	*£ million*
Greenwich	28.2
Lewisham	9.7
Newham	37.7
Waltham Forest	28.6
Hackney	30.2
Haringey	52.8
Islington	18.8
Lambeth	70.7
Tower Hamlets	13.3
Southwark	33.8
Westminster	50.2
Barking and Dagenham	0.1
Ealing	0.05
Kensington and Chelsea	0.05
Enfield	0.05
Total	374.2

Business: Secondary Education

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's scheme to provide funding to schools at Key Stage 4 for Enterprise Education. [293153]

Mr. Iain Wright: A survey by the then Qualification and Curriculum Authority in 2007 showed that over 90 per cent. of secondary schools provide enterprise education for all their pupils at Key Stage 4. In 2004, fewer than half did. I am aware that many schools also offer enterprise learning activities to their Key Stage 3 students. Increasing numbers of primary schools are running activities to develop the enterprise capabilities of their pupils. To assist pupils, secondary schools receive £55 million each year for enterprise education at Key Stage 4, as part of their School Development Grant.

To gain a more detailed and up to date assessment, my Department has commissioned a review of enterprise education which will report in early 2010.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria are used for allocating funding to schools at key stage 4 for Enterprise Education; and how much was allocated on average per *(a)* school and *(b)* pupil in the latest period for which figures are available. [293154]

Mr. Iain Wright: The £55 million grant for enterprise learning was allocated to schools in 2005-06, 90 per cent. on the basis of the numbers of pupils aged 14-16, and 10 per cent. by the number of those pupils eligible for Free School Meals. This was an average of £17,000 per secondary school.

Since 2006-2007 the funding has been part of School Development Grant (SDG). If a school received an allocation for Enterprise Learning in 2005-2006, that allocation will have formed part of its guaranteed SDG per pupil funding since 2006. Local authorities remind schools of this when allocating the grant, so that schools are aware the funding for these activities continues to be available. Schools are free to spend their SDG on any purpose to support the raising of standards of teaching and learning, including enterprise learning.

Children in Care: Education

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the stated aim of the Virtual School Head Pilot is; how much funding for the pilot has been *(a)* distributed to each local authority and *(b)* subsequently spent by each authority in each year since the pilot's inception; and how much will be distributed in the next two years. [292078]

Dawn Primarolo: The virtual school head pilots ran for two academic years from September 2007 to August 2009 in 11 local authorities in England. They were designed to test the impact of having a senior local authority officer to champion the needs of all looked after children being educated in the area as if they attended a single school and to emphasise the importance of social workers and schools promoting the educational achievement of this vulnerable group.

The funding provided for each of the pilot authorities was provided over three financial years and was based on numbers of looked after children in each authority. The allocations are set out in the table.

			£
Local authority	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Bournemouth	49,000	57,500	23,000
Cambridgeshire	60,000	70,000	26,000
Dudley	62,000	75,000	27,000
Gateshead	54,000	66,500	24,500
Greenwich	65,000	78,000	27,000
Merton	47,000	55,000	22,000
Norfolk	78,000	94,500	31,000
Salford	67,000	[illegible]	27,500
Stockport	55,000	67,500	24,500
Walsall	62,000	73,000	26,500
Warwickshire	62,000	74,500	27,000

The Government have provided over £140 million through the Area Based Grant across all local authorities for the current spending review period to implement the proposals set out in Care Matters, including in relation to the development of the virtual school head model. Local authorities in the pilot may also have used some of their additional resources or other local resources to support the development of their Virtual School Head pilot.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of introduction of the Virtual School Head Pilot on the percentage of children in care who achieve five GCSEs at grades A*-C in each year since the grant began; and what estimate he has made of the effect of the grant in this respect in the next two years. [292079]

Dawn Primarolo: An independent evaluation of the virtual school head pilot, which ran from September 2007 to August 2009, undertaken by the university of Bristol was published in August 2009. A copy of the report can be downloaded at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR144.pdf

The research states that:

> "analysis of official educational outcome statistics showed that, over the period of the pilots, the 11 authorities performed well compared to the national average and most showed improvement in GCSE results".

An analysis of education outcomes[1] for looked-after children in the 11 virtual school head pilot local authorities[2] as if they were one region shows that between 2007 and 2008 there was a 3 percentage point increase in the number of children looked after for 12 months who achieved 5 A*-C at GCSE compared to a 1.3 percentage increase nationally. Outcomes for 2009 have not yet been published.

The Department has disseminated the findings of the virtual school head evaluation to embed the most effective elements of the role into practice across every local authority. Together with the new statutory requirement for the governing body of every maintained school to appoint a designated teacher for looked-after children, this provides a strong framework for delivering our national public service agreement targets to narrow the gap in education outcomes for looked-after children achieve in 2011.

Children: Mental Health

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to increase awareness in schools of mental health problems among children. [292907]

Dawn Primarolo: As the key universal service for children, schools play an important role in the promotion of better emotional health and resilience and early intervention where mental health problems may arise. There are a number of programmes in schools that increase awareness of mental health issues for children and young people. These include the Healthy Schools Programme and Targeted Mental Health in Schools.

The Healthy Schools Programme requires schools to have policies and practices in place to support emotional health and wellbeing, including identifying children at risk of experiencing behavioural, emotional or social difficulties. Currently 99 per cent. of schools in England are working towards or have achieved Healthy School status.

The Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) programme is developing models of mental health support in schools for those children, young people and their families who need it most.

The project includes training for school staff to equip them with the knowledge and ability to identify problems early, to work with and support children and young people at risk of experiencing mental health problems and to refer them to appropriate mental health professionals, as necessary. It also provides mental health awareness and promotion for children, young people and families. Funded by £60 million between 2008 and 2011, the programme is currently operating in 80 local authorities. From September 2010 TaMHS will be operating in clusters of schools in all areas.

There are other school based programmes that also promote better emotional wellbeing. Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) is a comprehensive voluntary programme to develop the social and emotional skills of all pupils, while the new personal wellbeing programme of study within Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education includes a specific focus on issues relating to emotional wellbeing and mental health.

Horse Riding: Education

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received from riding schools on the operation of *(a)* the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 and *(b)* the Children (Protection at Work) Regulations 1988. [292406]

Dawn Primarolo: According to our records the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has received no such representations.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Minister of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 6 June 2009 on child protection. [289865]

Dawn Primarolo: A reply to the hon. Member's letter regarding the proposals put forward by the Baby P Legacy Group was sent on 12 August 2009.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the per pupil funding for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children in each London borough was in each of the last five years. [293046]

Mr. Coaker: The per pupil revenue funding figures for primary and secondary school pupils for each London local authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms:

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[1] Outcomes Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2008, England.

[2] Bournemouth, Cambridgeshire, Dudley, Gateshead, Greenwich, Merton, Norfolk, Salford, Stockport, Walsall, Warwickshire.

Real terms revenue funding per pupil—EFS plus grants

£

		2004-05		2005-06	
		Primary(aged 3-10)	*Secondary (aged 11-15)*	*Primary (aged 3-10)*	*Secondary (aged 11-15)*
301	Barking and Dagenham	4,480	4,390	4,690	4,580
302	Barnet	4,280	4,190	4,600	4,490
303	Bexley	3,880	3,790	4,070	3,970
304	Brent	4,920	4,840	5,240	5,140
305	Bromley	3,880	3,800	4,120	4,030
202	Camden	5,950	5,900	6,190	6,130
306	Croydon	4,210	4,120	4,430	4,330
307	Ealing	4,720	4,630	5,070	4,960
308	Enfield	4,440	4,360	4,650	4,540
203	Greenwich	5,290	5,190	5,660	5,530
204	Hackney	6,060	6,010	6,460	6,390
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	5,780	5,680	6,030	5,950
309	Haringey	5,170	5,070	5,410	5,320
310	Harrow	4,290	4,190	4,580	4,470
311	Havering	3,840	3,750	4,050	3,950
312	Hillingdon	4,190	4,080	4,470	4,350
313	Hounslow	4,620	4,530	4,930	4,820
206	Islington	5,840	5,760	6,200	6,120
207	Kensington and Chelsea	5,990	5,950	6,180	6,120
314	Kingston upon Thames	3,920	3,800	4,220	4,100
208	Lambeth	5,910	5,820	6,200	6,100
209	Lewisham	5,430	5,340	5,800	5,690
315	Merton	4,290	4,190	4,590	4,470
316	Newham	5,100	4,990	5,380	5,270
317	Redbridge	4,140	4,040	4,370	4,260
318	Richmond upon Thames	3,890	3,800	4,140	4,030
210	Southwark	5,510	5,430	5,970	5,860
319	Sutton	3,990	3,870	4,180	4,050
211	Tower Hamlets	6,200	6,080	6,650	6,520
320	Waltham Forest	4,730	4,630	4,920	4,830
212	Wandsworth	5,120	5,070	5,490	5,420
213	Westminster	5,650	5,570	5,930	5,820

Notes

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 June 2009.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3-15 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the new Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 (baseline) to 2008-09 for each London local authority are provided in the following table. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available.

The following figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil—DSG plus grants

£

		All pupils aged 3-19			
		2005-06 (Baseline)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
301	Barking and Dagenham	4,940	4,940	5,230	5,270
302	Barnet	4,790	4,960	5,120	5,200

Real terms revenue funding per pupil—DSG plus grants

£

		All pupils aged 3-19			
		2005-06 (Baseline)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
303	Bexley	4,390	4,490	4,650	4,730
304	Brent	5,190	5,320	5,570	5,700
305	Bromley	4,220	4,330	4,500	4,590
202	Camden	6,550	6,670	6,880	6,910
306	Croydon	4,470	4,640	4,840	4,910
307	Ealing	5,180	5,330	5,520	5,620
308	Enfield	4,750	4,890	5,060	5,100
203	Greenwich	5,640	5,900	6,110	6,260
204	Hackney	6,480	6,890	7,050	7,250
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	6,030	6,310	6,530	6,490
309	Haringey	5,540	5,620	5,830	5,940
310	Harrow	4,570	4,780	4,950	5,170
311	Havering	4,350	4,440	4,590	4,670
312	Hillingdon	4,600	4,770	4,920	4,990
313	Hounslow	4,990	5,160	5,320	5,380
206	Islington	6,110	6,410	6,690	6,660
207	Kensington and Chelsea	6,400	6,460	6,590	6,530
314	Kingston upon Thames	4,540	4,650	4,780	4,850
208	Lambeth	6,160	6,370	6,600	6,780
209	Lewisham	5,890	6,110	6,290	6,330
315	Merton	4,530	4,800	4,950	5,010
316	Newham	5,340	5,620	5,850	5,970
317	Redbridge	4,380	4,560	4,750	4,820
318	Richmond upon Thames	4,420	4,540	4,670	4,750
210	Southwark	5,970	6,410	6,620	6,650
319	Sutton	4,480	4,570	4,730	4,810
211	Tower Hamlets	6,650	6,990	7,250	7,350
320	Waltham Forest	4,950	5,160	5,320	5,330
212	Wandsworth	5,410	5,630	5,860	5,980
213	Westminster	5,520	6,010	6,290	6,260

Notes:

1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards; Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which Ere not allocated at LA level.

2. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 June 2009 3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19

4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Sure Start Programme: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many additional Sure Start centres are planned to be opened in *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* the West Midlands in the next three years. [illegible]

Dawn Primarolo: Staffordshire county council currently has 43 Sure Start Children's Centres offering services to approximately 36,100 children, with an additional 13 planned to be delivered. West Midlands currently has 331 centres reaching 285,300 children with a further 48 planned. All centres are planned to be delivered by March 2010 in order to provide universal coverage of children's centre services for children under five and their families.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to monitor the effects of climate emission reduction targets on levels of carbon dioxide emissions. [289805]

Joan Ruddock: The Department monitors UK greenhouse gas emissions by way of our greenhouse gas inventory. The inventory is reviewed each year and the full dataset revised to incorporate methodological improvements and new data. The most recent results were published on 3 February 2009. These show UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2007 by source sector for each gas. The 2007 publication shows carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions have reduced by 8.5 per cent. (50.3 Mt CO_2) since 1990, and by 1.6 per cent. (9 Mt CO_2) since 1997. CO_2 is the main greenhouse gas, accounting for 85.3 per cent. of total UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2007.

In March 2009, DECC published the provisional 2008 UK greenhouse gas emissions figures. In 2008, UK emissions of the six greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto protocol were provisionally estimated to be 623.8 Mt of CO_2 equivalent. This was 2 per cent. lower than the 2007 figure of 636.6 Mt.

In reporting emissions reductions against all of these targets, the UK is able to take account of emissions trading through the European Union emissions trading scheme (EU ETS). Overall, in each one of the three years in phase I, the UK was a net acquirer of allowances. Taking this into account in the context of the UK's reported emissions, this has affected the results by reducing the level of emissions by the amount of EU ETS allowances acquired in the year.

It should be noted that UK and EU targets are for a basket of greenhouse gasses and not just CO_2.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many sub-contractors have been contracted to carry out work under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme. [292032]

Joan Ruddock: This information is not held centrally as it is commercially confidential. The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target is an obligation on gas and electricity suppliers to deliver carbon reduction in GB households. Who the energy suppliers contract to deliver low carbon products in achievement of their targets is at their discretion.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many enquiries made to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme about free insulation for houses have been received; and how many such enquiries led to the installation of free insulation. [292035]

Joan Ruddock: This information is not held centrally. The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target is an obligation on gas and electricity suppliers to deliver carbon reduction in GB households and each supplier will have their own range of promotions, often through a range of delivery routes. This includes work with social housing providers, charities, retailers, contracting directly with insulation installers or through management agents as well as direct marketing.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have unsuccessfully applied for domestic insulation under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme. [292036]

Joan Ruddock: This information is not held centrally as it is commercially confidential. The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target is an obligation on gas and electricity suppliers to deliver carbon reduction in GB households. It is at suppliers' discretion which households they deliver measures to in achievement of their targets.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many houses in Bassetlaw constituency have been insulated under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme. [292037]

Joan Ruddock: This information is not held centrally. Under the governing regulations, Government cannot oblige energy suppliers to report on where measures are installed under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. However, we are progressing a voluntary agreement with the energy suppliers to this end, which we hope to have in place this year. This will report all CERT insulation data into the Home Energy Efficiency Database held by the Energy Saving Trust, and allow area based analysis.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people have received domestic insulation under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target scheme. [292038]

Joan Ruddock: From 1 April 2008 to 30th June 2009, 717,646 cavity wall insulation measures, 889,768 professional loft insulation measures and 14,059 solid wall insulation measures were installed under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target.

Climate Change

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department consulted scientists from outside the International Panel on Climate Change prior to publishing the document, Road to Copenhagen. [292448]

Joan Ruddock: The UK Government use the IPCC's findings and those from other reliable scientific sources such as the Hadley Centre to inform the development of UK climate change policy positions and these are reflected throughout the Road to Copenhagen Command Paper.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provides the most authoritative perspective on climate change science. Its 4th annual report, published in 2007, was the result of six years of work by more than 1,200 scientists from over 130 countries. The work was reviewed by around 2,500 experts.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department are expected to attend the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009; and what recent estimate he has made of the projected carbon footprint resulting from such travel to attend the conference. [292450]

Joan Ruddock: We have not yet determined who will attend from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, so we cannot say with certainty how many Ministers or officials will be on the delegation. This will depend largely on the state of international negotiations at the time of the conference.

Without knowing the size of our delegation, it is impossible to project our carbon footprint, however, we are taking steps proactively to minimise the delegation's impact on the environment.

DECC offset all emissions from international flights.

In addition to flying, we are researching low-carbon methods of transport, i.e. rail and ferry, to allow delegates to minimise their emissions in travelling to Copenhagen.

We are also researching materials and practices we can employ at the conference to minimise our impact on the environment. Internal experts are advising on possible innovations to improve the green-ness of the UK delegation.

The Danish Government are keen to make COP 15 the greenest COP so far, and so they are providing free public transport and showcasing a host of environmentally friendly vehicles. We will be taking full advantage of this to minimise our daily carbon footprint.

Climate Change: Research

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research into geoengineering techniques for the purpose of combating climate change his Department has funded in the last 12 months. [292047]

Joan Ruddock: During the last 12 months, DECC has funded a small amount of modelling work into the environmental consequences of several geo-engineering options, including injecting sulphate aerosols into the stratosphere and encouraging low level cloud development to increase regional reflectivity.

Coal: Industrial Health and Safety

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many crossover claims under the coal health compensation scheme have been made by each of the 50 solicitors' firms which have made the highest number of such claims. [292009]

Mr. Kidney: The number of claims under the coal health compensation schemes submitted by the 50 highest claimants' representative that had the crossover issues is shown in the following table as at 4 October 2009.

Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*Claims with crossover issues*
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	1,330
Thompsons Solicitors	Edinburgh—Scottish claims only	531
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	531
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	432
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	397
Hugh James	Respiratory Disease Dept	324
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle Upon Tyne	290
Hugh James	Cardiff	270
Thompsons Solicitors	—	213
Browell Smith & Co	Newcastle Upon Tyne	209
Towells Solicitors	Wakefield	186
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	155
Randell Lloyd Jenkins & Martin	Llanelli	148
Atteys	Rotherham	130
Corries Solicitors	Glasgow—Scottish claims only	123
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (UDM only)	113
Shaw & Co Solicitors	Doncaster	106
Kidd & Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	90
Moss Solicitors	Moss UDM claims only	86
Hopkins	Eden Court, Mansfield	83
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	78
Thompson & Co Solicitors	Sunderland	74
O H Parsons & Partners Solicitors	London	58
Oxley & Coward Solicitors	Rotherham	57
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	AMS UDM claims only	55
Furley Page	Canterbury	54
Latham & Co Solicitors	Leicester	54
Latham & Co Solicitors	Leicester	47
Keeble Hawson	Doncaster	42
Kingslegal	Cardiff	40
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	40
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	39
T S Edwards & Son Solicitors	Ystrad Mynach	37
BHP LAW	Belmont	31
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	Sheffield	30
Mortons Solicitors	Sunderland	29
Gabb & Co	Powys	28
Morisons Solicitors	Edinburgh—Scottish claims only	28
Shaw & Co Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	27
Marrons Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	25
Saffmans Solicitors	Leeds	25
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	24
Moley Whittle Robinson	Preston	23
Corries York	York	18
McLeish Carswell	Glasgow—Scottish claims only	18
Browell Smith & Co	Newcastle—SPSSG	15
Hopkins		14
Mincoffs Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	13
Endlers Solicitors	86A Bury Old Road	13
Hindle Campbell Solicitors	North Shields	13
Total		6,796

Departmental Buildings: Renewable Energy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Government buildings use heat generated by *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* ground source heat pumps. [292016]

Joan Ruddock: DECC does not hold information about the number of Government buildings that use heat generated by *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* ground source heat pumps. However, neither of DECC's buildings generate heat using these methods.

Departmental Cars

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291611]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) came into existence on 3 October 2008. The Department has since spent as follows:

Financial year	*£*
2008-09	11,370
2009-10	75,311

Departmental Personnel

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff there were in his Department *(a)* at its creation and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [292841]

Joan Ruddock: On 3 October 2008, approximately 800 staff were transferred to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. On 1 September 2009, there were 1,070 staff in the Department.

Devolution: Energy

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions there have been between officials of his Department, the Wales Office and the Welsh Assembly Government on the devolution to the Welsh Assembly of energy consents above 50MW. [292833]

Mr. Kidney: None. The Government are continuing with their plans to transfer decision making on consent applications for electricity generating stations above 50 MW in England and Wales to the new Infrastructure Planning Commission.

Forests

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms are in place to ensure that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries funding is not used to replace forests with plantations. [292543]

Joan Ruddock: Reducing emissions from deforestation is under discussion as part of the climate change negotiations that will conclude in Copenhagen this December. As part of these talks, safeguards against the conversion of natural forests to plantations are being discussed and we are seeking the strongest possible outcome on this.

Housing: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on whether funding allocated to his Department is to be re-allocated to the Department for Communities and Local Government to help implement the housing policies announced in the Draft Legislative Programme for 2009-10. [290485]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has many meetings with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor, where they discuss matters over a wide range of topics.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to provide a substantive reply to question 290929 tabled on 9 September 2009 on compensation payments under the Guaranteed Standards Scheme. [293215]

Mr. Kidney: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change answered the hon. Member's question on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 468W.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 October 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Bishops

Mark Pritchard: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if the Church Commissioners will take steps to seek to ensure that decisions on future numbers of bishops to be appointed to Church of England dioceses are taken on the basis of the *(a)* size and *(b)* level of pastoral activity of each such diocese. [291996]

Sir Stuart Bell: Under the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007, questions relating to the number of dioceses and the number of suffragan bishops within dioceses are the responsibility of the Dioceses Commission. Final decisions are taken by the General Synod.

In its work the Dioceses Commission will certainly have regard to the size of dioceses and the level of pastoral activity within them, but there are many other considerations affecting the workload of bishops in individual dioceses that also need to be borne in mind.

Church of England: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what average financial contribution was made to each diocese by each of its parishioners in the most recent year for which figures are available. [291574]

Sir Stuart Bell: In 2007, the last year for which figures are available, the "parish share" contributed to the dioceses annually per church member (as opposed to per "parishioner"), was as follows:

Diocese	*Parish share contributed to diocese per church member (£)*
Bath and Wells	314
Birmingham	326
Blackburn	282
Bradford	461
Bristol	421
Canterbury	362
Carlisle	335
Chelmsford	369
Chester	299
Chichester	281
Coventry	341
Derby	349
Durham	313
Ely	310
Exeter	333
Gloucester	294
Guildford	428
Hereford	286
Leicester	360
Lichfield	339
Lincoln	234
Liverpool	279
London	338
Manchester	299
Newcastle	300
Norwich	379
Oxford	358
Peterborough	365
Portsmouth	302
Ripon and Leeds	406
Rochester	123
St Albans	351
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich	333
Salisbury	306
Sheffield	343
Southwark	414
Southwell and Nottingham	356
Truro	284
Wakefield	343
Winchester	350
Worcester	340
York	298

My hon. Friend will also note that the diocese of Europe is not included (because it does not submit parish finance returns like other dioceses) and nor is the diocese of Sodor and Man (for which the figures are too small to produce a reliable average).

It should also be noted that parish share is not necessarily paid for out of members' voluntary giving. It is, however, the best proxy for the purpose of this Question.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 426W, on Church of England: finance, what percentage of the Church of England's running costs was met by the Church Commissioners in each of the last five years; [291847]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 326W, on Church of England: finance, what exact percentage of the Church of England's running costs was met by the Church Commissioners in each of the last five years. [293182]

Sir Stuart Bell: In the last five years for which whole-Church figures are available, the percentage of the Church's running costs represented by the Church Commissioners' support was as follows:

	Percentage
2002	17
2003	16
2004	16
2005	15
2006	15

Departmental Land

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 40W, on departmental land, (1) what estimate he has made of the itemised cost of establishing how many acres of agricultural land were sold by the Church Commissioners in each year from 2000 to 2008; [291848]

(2) what his estimate is of the cost of establishing how many acres of agricultural land were sold by the Church Commissioners in each year from 2000 to 2008, broken down by cost heading. [293213]

Sir Stuart Bell: This exercise would entail staff consulting at least 220 files, many of which would have to be retrieved from the Commissioners' off-site archive. While I have not made a fully itemised assessment of the cost, I would estimate that the exercise would take approximately 45 man-hours to complete and that the direct cost of this staff time alone would be in the region of £1,500.

The indirect cost of senior professional staff being distracted from their management of the portfolio by such an exercise is, of course, harder to judge.

Departmental Property

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners (1) what the value has been of the capital receipts generated by the Commissioners' Rural Strategic Property portfolio in each of the last five years; [291846]

(2) how much in capital receipts was generated by the Church Commissioners' rural strategic property portfolio in each of the last five years. [293209]

Sir Stuart Bell: The value of the capital receipts generated by the Commissioners' rural strategic property portfolio in each of the last five years was as follows:-

	Value (£ million)
2004	9.4
2005	5.6
2006	11.7
2007	25.9
2008	17.9

David Maclean: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what procedures the Church Commissioners follow to determine the appropriate use for a former see house with a chapel when such a property is considered no longer suitable as an episcopal residence; and what steps the Commissioners take to consult *(a)* local communities and *(b)* diocesan authorities on the future use of such properties. [292048]

Sir Stuart Bell: All see houses are provided with chapels. These chapels vary quite significantly but are private chapels solely for the use of the bishop and his ministry. Given their status as private chapels they usually fall outside the remit of the Pastoral Measure and do not form any specific part of the Commissioners' consultation on the future of a house.

Where the future of any see house is under consideration the Commissioners' policy is to consult widely, including with the diocesan authorities.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Answers

24. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent assessment she has made of the performance of Government Departments in providing timely answers to parliamentary questions for written answer; and if she will make a statement. [293091]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. and learned Friend and I keep the quality and timeliness of Ministers' answers to written parliamentary questions under continuous review. We are happy to make representations on behalf of Members' to Departments. The hon. Gentleman will be aware of the publication of the Procedure Committee report on written parliamentary questions; the Government will respond to this very soon.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties and Elections Bill

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the workability of the provisions in the Political Parties and Elections Bill on donors who are not resident in the UK for tax purposes. [293066]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it considered the workability of these provisions when the Political Parties and Elections Bill was before Parliament, and set out its views in its briefing notes at that time. The notes are available on the Commission's website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

and copies have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

In summary, the Commission's view was that the provisions finally incorporated in the Act addressed some of its concerns about previous amendments. In particular, the provisions clarified the obligations of those receiving donations that require a declaration from the donor about tax status. However, the Commission said that it would be helpful if the Government could explain the steps that recipients should take if they doubt the accuracy of a declaration, and clarify how donations should be aggregated for the purpose of establishing whether a declaration is required.

In terms of enforcement of the new provisions, the Commission informs me that it would expect to pass on any allegation that an individual had made a false declaration about their tax status to the police or another appropriate authority.

TRANSPORT

Crossrail Line: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been *(a)* spent on and *(b)* committed to the Crossrail project by (i) the Government and (ii) the private sector; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of the final cost of the project each such figure represents. [293275]

Mr. Khan: Crossrail Ltd. (CRL) is delivering Crossrail on behalf of both Project Sponsors (the Department for Transport and Transport for London) and has spent £401 million in relation to the construction of Crossrail (excluding recoverable VAT on land and property purchases) since the granting of Royal Assent on 22 July 2008. In line with undertakings given to the House, expenditure from this date is reported annually, and I refer the hon. Member to the first of these statements, made to the House on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-81WS.

The profile of direct expenditure by private sector partners is a commercial matter for those partners.

The Crossrail funding package, announced by the Prime Minister in October 2007, is designed to strike a fair balance in securing financial contributions from all those who will benefit from the scheme—Government, businesses and passengers.

Central Government, through the Department for Transport, have committed £5.1 billion of direct funding to Crossrail, which amounts to approximately one third of the funding package, in line with the estimated costs of construction of £15.9 billion.

Private sector commitments to Crossrail include a number of commercial agreements with private sector companies to provide contributions to Crossrail, given the benefits which will flow to businesses as a result of the scheme.

These include agreements with Canary Wharf Group, City of London, Berkeley Homes Group and BAA, as well as wider contributions being made through Business Rate Supplements, the planned Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 developer contributions. Such commitments constitute approximately one third of the Crossrail funding package.

Invalid Vehicles: Accidents

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many mobility scooter accidents involving *(a)* children and *(b)* adults have been recorded in each of the last five years. [292835]

Paul Clark: The information requested cannot be identified separately. Accidents involving mobility scooters are recorded in the 'other' category alongside other types of vehicle. To separately provide mobility scooter statistics could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Railways: Electrification

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport by what date he expects a contract to have been signed to deliver each rail electrification scheme he has announced to date. [293276]

Chris Mole: On 23 July the Government announced a major £1.1 billion programme of rail electrification. The routes to be electrified are: (i) the Great Western Main Line between London and Swansea; and (ii) the line between Liverpool and Manchester via Newton-le-Willows.

As with other rail investments, both schemes will be delivered by Network Rail. Details of contracts with suppliers are a matter for Network Rail and the schemes will be completed by (i) 2017 and (ii) 2013 respectively.

Railways: Netherlands

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what barriers to the introduction of a through high-speed service between London and Amsterdam have been identified by his Department; and what steps his Department is taking to overcome them. [293277]

Chris Mole: Government policy is to encourage competition on High Speed One from 2010 and to expand the number of European destinations available by rail from the UK. Discussions have been held with rail operators in a number of other European Union countries on providing such services, including from London to Amsterdam. The Government will require security and immigration requirements to be met by any new services. It will be for the future operator of High Speed One to market the railway and to agree terms of access with international train operators.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents involving *(a)* cars and *(b)* motorcycles in which at least one driver was found to be at fault have occurred in Essex in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the age of the driver at fault. [292183]

Paul Clark: The information requested is not collected. The reported road accident statistics do not assign fault to any of the parties involved in personal injury road accidents. The information collected by the police officer at the scene of the accident is limited to probable contributory factors which may have contributed to the accident.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Advertising

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on which initiatives of his Department and its agencies expenditure on advertising has been incurred in each of the last five years; how much was spent on each such initiative; and which such initiatives were advertised through the Central Office of Information. [290149]

Paul Goggins: Advertising is an important form of communication which is used by the Northern Ireland Office to inform and encourage the public to contribute to the debate around proposed changes to legislation and deliver important public safety messages to as wide an audience as possible.

The following table shows how much the Northern Ireland Office, including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland and its agencies, but excluding its NDPBs, has spent on advertising initiatives in each of the last five years.

£

	NIO core	*Forensic science NI*	*Youth Justice Agency*
2004-05	151,998.70	—	—
2005-06	213,119.67	—	—

£

	NIO core	*Forensic science NI*	*Youth Justice Agency*
2006-07	174,941.56	—	—
2007-08	357,956.92	—	1,318.76
2008-09	416,799.12	1,272.74	—

The Northern Ireland Prison Service and the Compensation Agency had no such expenditure.

The following details each initiative, the amount spent and whether or not the Central Office of Information (COI) was used to advertise the initiative.

Initiative	*Amount (£)*	*COI used*
NIO core		
2004-05		
Advertising Draft ASBO Order	2,732.23	Yes
Advertising Consultation on ASBO Order	1,187.93	Yes
Advertising Draft Criminal Justice Order	1,344.30	Yes
Advertising Criminal Justice Commencement Order	1,847.72	Yes
Advertising Public Consultation on Road Traffic	2,200.61	Yes
Advertising for Criminal Justice Consultation	1,906.32	Yes
Advertising Public Consultation on Review Sentencing Framework	1,482.19	Yes
Public Consultation on Draft Proposal for a Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2005	2,167.69	Yes
Unknown Callers TV Ad	45,316.75	No
Theft from Vehicles	91,118.96	No
2005-06		
Public Consultation on Corporate Manslaughter	2,047.27	Yes
Public Consultation on Corruption	1,565.57	Yes
Unknown Callers TV Ad	114,797.00	No
Theft from Vehicles	94,709.83	No
2006-07		
Advertising Criminal Justice Awards	5,192.77	Yes
Advertising Criminal Justice Awards	1,999.80	Yes
Rehabilitation of Offenders	2,168.29	Yes
Law on Knives	1,086.22	Yes
Sexual Offences Consultation	1,066.22	Yes
Test for Quashing Convictions	2,239.46	Yes
Make Sure Crime Doesn't Pay Consultation	2,363.88	Yes
Consultation on Road Traffic	1,086.22	Yes
Unknown Callers TV Ad	950.00	No
Theft from Vehicles	34,688.45	No
Domestic Violence Media Campaign	50,000.00	No
Recording Incidents of Hate Project	5,889.25	No
Knife Crime Media Campaign	63,830.00	No
2007-08		
Firework Campaign	38,000.00	No
Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007	1,437.63	Yes
Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007	1,437.63	Yes
Public Consultation on Draft Proposal for a Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2007	2,643.73	Yes
Advertising Proposed Draft Sexual Offences	2,907.47	Yes
Public Consultation Possession of Non Photographic Images	2,346.70	Yes
Unknown Callers TV Ad	58,199.58	No
Theft from Vehicles	63,492.46	No
Domestic Violence Media Campaign	175,491.80	No
Fireworks Public Safety Campaign	20,000.00	No
2008-09		
Consultation on proposals for reform of law on murder/manslaughter and infanticide	2,126.77	Yes
Consultation on Fine Default	1,987.34	Yes
Changes to the Law on Sexual Offences	135.70	Yes
Changes to the Law on Sexual Offences	1,104.00	Yes
Changes to the Law on Sexual Offences	6,601.09	Yes
Blue Cube Interactive Adverts in Cinema on Sexual Offences	3,857.28	Yes
Blue Cube cost on Line Management	1,427.15	Yes
Advert for Implementing Electronic Monitoring	344.05	Yes
Advert for Implementing Electronic Monitoring	128.64	Yes
Changes to the Law on Sexual Offences	18,748.63	No
Unknown Callers TV Ad	102,036.42	No
Theft from Vehicles	78,682.05	No
Close it, Lock it, Check it Campaign	169,425.00	No
Campus Watch	11,000.00	No
Fireworks Public Safety Campaign	20,000.00	No
Youth Justice Agency 2007-08		
TAG Rugby Initiative	1,318.76	No
Forensic Science Northern Ireland 2008-09		
Pens, mugs, badge reels	1,272.74	No

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff there were in his Department *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [292068]

Paul Goggins: The total number of staff in the Northern Ireland Office (excluding agencies, executive and non-departmental public bodies) on the dates requested is set out in the following table.

	NIO staff numbers
September	
1997	677.5
2009	1287

The September 1997 information is held in terms of full-time equivalent staff. The September 2009 information is held in terms of actual numbers of staff employed. The increase in staff numbers is largely due to the expansion of the Public Prosecution Service.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of the satellite photographs produced by the Rural Payments Agency as part of the Single Payment Scheme Remote Sensing project has been in 2009 to date. [293146]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The raw satellite images used by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for controls with remote sensing are provided, without charge, to participating member states by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. There is therefore no cost incurred by RPA for the images themselves.

However, processing these images requires RPA to engage a specialist contractor. The total contract budget for this specialist work in 2009 is £518,520. The processed images are used not only to check SPS applications but also to inform updates to the Rural Land Register.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average change in Single Payment Scheme payments per holding as a result of the Single Payment Scheme Remote Sensing exercise. [293147]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Work on the 2009 remote sensing exercise is still under way.

In 2008 95 per cent. of all land remote sensed was found to be correct. Since each customer's entitlement value is different the scale of change in payment will vary from customer to customer.

However, using the average farm size for remote sensing in 2008 of 63.35 hectares, this meant an average change per farm of three hectares. At flat rate payment values for 2008 this equates to a £336.51 payment reduction per holding (before modulation).

Animals: Exports

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live *(a)* cattle, *(b)* horses, *(c)* sheep and *(d)* ponies were exported in each of the last five years. [291916]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data collected from the EU Commission's Trade Control Expert System (TRACES) indicate that the following number of live cattle, equines (including both horses and ponies) and sheep were certified by official veterinarians as meeting the intra-Community trade rules for dispatch from the United Kingdom to other EU member states in the specified year:

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Equidae	6,318	8,090	6,691
Cattle	152,835	193,309	112,740
Sheep	293,196	207,845	319,700

The available TRACES data do not distinguish between horses or ponies, therefore the figures for these animals is combined under the heading of 'equidae'. In addition, the Tripartite Agreement between the UK, Republic of Ireland and France allows most equidae to move between these countries without the need for the movement to be recorded on TRACES. Therefore, these movements are not captured in the above data.

Data for earlier years have not been provided because they are not currently available in a format which allows any direct comparison to that supplied above.

The figures are subject to updating and amendment.

The number of animals certified for export from the United Kingdom to countries outside of the EU is not recorded centrally, meaning that it is not possible to provide these data.

Farming Link

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of producing and distributing the *Farming Link* publication in each of the last five years. [289680]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is included in the following table. *Farming Link* was not published prior to spring 2007.

	Design (£)	*Print (£)*	*Postage (£)*
Spring 2007	19,771	31,900	[1]—
Summer 2007	23,017	29,196	32,435
Autumn 2007	23,017	27,495	[2]0
Winter 2007-08	27,797	24,525	39,888
Spring 2008	28,892	31,310	28,925
Summer 2008	29,326	29,611	35,571
Autumn 2008	28,856	29,611	28,133
Winter 2008-09	28,242	29,690	28,198
Spring 2009	28,679	31,120	[1]—
Summer 2009	28,476	32,476	29,874
Autumn 2009	24,259	32,956	[1]—

[1] Figure not available.

[2] This edition was not distributed as it fell between the lifting of the first foot and mouth disease outbreak restrictions and the second outbreak on 12 September, 2007.

Farms: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farm inspections were conducted by each inspection body in each of the last five years. [291905]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is as follows:

Rural Payments Agency

The RPA Inspectorate conducted the following inspections in each of the last five years:

Year[1]	*Number of inspections*
2004-05	11,779
2005-06	11,951
2006-07	13,869
2007-08	14,457
2008-09	14,461

[1] RPA Inspections are detailed by financial year, therefore the table refers to inspections made from 1 April to 31 March in each year.

In addition our Horticultural Marketing Inspectors, who merged with the RPA Inspectorate on 1 April 2006, carried out the following inspections at the premises of glasshouse growers, market gardeners etc:

Year[1]	*Number of inspections*
2006-07	1,264
2007-08	1,230
2008-09	1,170

[1] RPA HMI Inspections are detailed by financial year, as above.

Animal Health

Year	*TB*	*Welfare*
2005	82,272	3,421
2006	115,868	3,860
2007	132,806	4,003
2008	136,877	4,143
2009	105,760	2,947

Notes:
1. 2009 data cover the period 1 January to 30 September 2009.
2. TB inspections include all tests carried out by AH Staff and OV's.

Figures for Veterinary Medicines Visit Management System for medicines farm visits, including revisits, are:

	Visits
2008	2,683
Financial year 2008-09	2,682
2009 to date	1,972

There would also be many other farm visits carried out e.g. animal by-products visits, disease surveillance for salmonella, sheep surveys, avian influenza surveys etc. There are also visits carried out by Egg Marketing Inspectorate and Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate. We have been unable to provide details of these due to disproportionate cost.

Veterinary Medicine Directorate

VMD's contribution to this reply based on calendar years is as follows:

	Number
2004	
Routine/scheduled	548
Follow up/special	39
Total	587
2005	
Routine/scheduled	635
Follow up/special	51
Total	686
2006	
Routine/scheduled	509
Follow up/special	26
Total	535
2007	
Routine/scheduled	279
Follow up/special	19
Fish farms	82
Total	380
2008	
Routine/scheduled	273
Follow up/special	20
Fish farms	24
Total	317

Note:
Inspection of fish farms mixing medicated feeds began in 2006, but inspection of such premises were not separately identified.

Environment Agency

The following table shows the number of single regime, integrated and cross-compliance inspections that have been undertaken by the Environment Agency in the last five years.

	Number of visits
2004-05	6,504
2005-06	5,835
2006-07	5,767
2007-08	6,768
2008-09	5,787

Source:
EA Operations Performance Data (2004-05 to 2008-09)

The Food and Environment Research Agency

The Food and Environment Research Agency's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate carry out technical inspections of crops and commodities on farms. These are inherently different to the inspections undertaken by other agencies. The figures for the last five years are as follows:

2005: 6,570 inspections at 2,116 visits to 734 farms
2006: 12,223 inspections at 6,653 visits to 1,865 farms
2007: 11,337 inspections at 6,099 visits to 1,609 farms
2008: 12,218 inspections at 6,398 visits to 1,523 farms
2009 (to date): 9,419 inspections at 4,762 visits to 1,439 farms.

The National Bee Unit's Bee Inspectors carry out inspections of apiaries for statutory bee diseases. The figures for these inspections are as follows:

2005: 4,035
2006: 4,034
2007: 4,488
2008: 4,422
2009: 7,318 (to date)

However, it is not possible to distinguish how many of these were to bee farmers or to amateur beekeepers (approx. 99 per cent. of beekeepers are amateurs).

GM audits (seed) do not take place on farms. GM trial inspections are focused on the trial itself only, and very often take place on research institutes, etc and therefore these figures are not included.

Fisheries

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions the monitoring of *(a)* fish stocks and *(b)* other marine wildlife has been instigated following the loss of a harmful cargo into the sea since 1 May 2007; what the results of such monitoring was; and what the (i) nature of the harmful cargo, (ii) location and (iii) period of monitoring was in each case. [292782]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 572W.

Since the MSC Napoli was breached in Lyme Bay on 20 January 2007, the containers on the beach and any litter have now been cleared and the beaches have been available for public access since Easter 2007. Furthermore, in 2007 the bow was recycled at Harland and Woolf's dry dock in Belfast, and the stern was raised using heavy lifting equipment and dismantled in situ earlier this year.

The Marine Fisheries Agency has reviewed their Marine Pollution Contingency Plan to take account of lessons learnt from the MSC Napoli incident. A copy of the plan is available at:

www.mfa.gov.uk/environment/documents/Internet-Marine-Pollution-Contingency-Plan.pdf

Milk: Overseas Trade

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the liquid whole milk equivalent volume of *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports of milk-based products in each of the last three years. [291910]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not possible to provide the different milk products in liquid milk equivalent. It is a complex calculation which can lead to double counting. The following table shows the UK trade in milk products for 2006-08.

		2006		*2007*		*2008*	
Flow	*Description*	*Tonnes*	*£000s*	*Tonnes*	*£000s*	*Tonnes*	*£000s*
Imports	Cheese	378,105	885,940	402,936	930,342	421,800	1,195,175
	Yoghurt	143,591	124,378	137,793	124,798	159,158	164,743
	Buttermilk	134,692	115,063	143,902	113,512	151,679	143,339
	Butter	147,139	334,749	103,231	228,565	81,402	233,576
	Ice Cream	90,716	136,834	92,729	139,481	95,781	162,619
	Condensed milk	45,367	41,956	40,841	43,909	39,051	45,857
	Whey	21,452	17,282	25,334	30,218	22,066	21,951
	Other	3,498	5,367	3,305	5,563	3,223	6,978
Imports total		964,561	1,661,568	950,070	1,616,388	974,159	1,974,237
Exports	Cheese	104,212	230,624	97,174	241,260	88,420	281,306
	Whey	74,112	32,612	66,702	42,157	74,040	31,843
	Ice Cream	55,587	50,319	39,007	47,793	33,316	48,435
	Butter	35,670	59,914	31,662	66,170	23,751	54,772
	Buttermilk	22,080	8,381	25,107	9,720	14,015	8,283
	Yoghurt	17,189	25,322	16,911	29,302	16,694	34,602
	Condensed milk	6,346	8,326	5,615	8,123	3,052	5,375
	Other	553	2,323	634	1,922	511	1,588
Exports total		315,748	417,820	282,812	446,447	253,797	466,203

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs.
Data prepared by Trade Statistics, Economics and Statistics Programme, DEFRA.

Nitrates: EU Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of the Nitrates Directive on tenant farmers whose landlords may have applied nitrates to the tenanted land. [293167]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No such assessment has been made. However, normally a landlord cannot apply nitrates to a tenant's land without the permission of the tenant, unless the tenancy agreement specifically provides for this. A tenant is considered to be the occupier of the land under the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (2008) and is therefore responsible for compliance with the regulations.

Ragwort: Weed Control

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to tackle ragwort on public property; and what guidance it has provided to local authorities on the subject. [293492]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has published a Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort. The Code provides comprehensive guidance on how to develop a strategic and cost-effective approach to weed control. It is intended for use by all landowners and occupiers but is particularly relevant for large-scale organisations managing significant land areas, including local authorities and public bodies who are primarily responsible for the control of Common Ragwort on their land.

DEFRA also has an enforcement procedure under the Weeds Act 1959 for investigating complaints about the injurious weeds specified in the Act, including Common Ragwort.

Under this procedure, complaints about the spread of injurious weeds are prioritised. Natural England (on DEFRA's behalf) investigates complaints where weeds are threatening to spread to land used for: keeping or grazing horses and other livestock; farmland used to produce conserved forage; or other agricultural land activities, and the complainant has already made reasonable efforts to contact the landowner or occupier where the weeds are growing.

The Ragwort Code of Practice and details of the complaints procedure can be found on DEFRA's website.

JUSTICE

Cybercrime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions, *(b)* convictions and *(c)* police cautions there have been for offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 in each of the last five years. [292184]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of defendants issued with a caution, proceeded against at magistrates courts, and found guilty at all courts for offences under the 1990 Computer Misuse Act in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Number of defendants issued with a caution[1, 2], proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts[3], for offences under the 1990 Computer Misuse Act[4], England and Wales, 2003-07[5]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cautioned	16	32	29	46	75
Proceeded against	19	21	24	25	19
Found guilty	5	12	16	18	10

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Covers the following:

Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences (Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec 2).

Unauthorised modification of computer material (Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec 3).

Unauthorised access to computer material (Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec.1).

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Employment and Support Allowance: Tribunals

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many appeals for Employment and Support Allowance are outstanding in the East of England; and how many such appeals there are in relation to mental health. [292440]

Bridget Prentice: The Tribunals Service First Tier Tribunal—Social Security and Child Support (SSCS) is responsible for Employment and Support Allowance Appeals. The tribunal does not have a defined eastern region and collects information on an area basis. The hon. Member's constituency lies within the area known as Greater London and the South East.

As of 8 October 2009, there were 3,221 live cases in the Greater London and South East area.

Information is not collected on the number of outstanding employment and support allowance appeals that relate to mental health and could be provided only at disproportionate cost by making a manual check of each case file.

Employment Tribunals Service

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to undertake a formal evaluation and review of the new enforcement regime for unpaid employment tribunal awards. [291868]

Bridget Prentice: The new process for the enforcement of Employment Tribunal awards within the court system will be evaluated and reviewed within a two year period of the date of its commencement.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the new enforcement mechanism for unpaid Employment Tribunal awards that he announced on 19 May 2009 will be *(a)* free at the point of delivery for those seeking to enforce an unpaid award and *(b)* applied retrospectively. [291869]

Bridget Prentice: The terms and details of the new enforcement mechanism for Employment Tribunal awards are still the subject of discussion with the High Court Enforcement Officers Association. As soon as agreement has been reached on the details of the scheme and High Court Enforcement Officer involvement secured amendments to the Court Civil Procedure Rules will be brought forward. I will update you further as soon as I am able.

Employment Tribunals Service: Compensation

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that compensation awarded to a plaintiff by an employment tribunal is paid without recourse to the courts. [292967]

Bridget Prentice: There are no provisions within current legislation to allow the employment tribunals (ET) to enforce their own awards and there are no plans at present to change this. ET awards can be enforced through Her Majesty's Court Service. The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 enabled the introduction of new provisions in April 2009 to simplify the system for enforcing unpaid ET awards in the county court. These include new information leaflets, removal of the registration fee, creation of a customer service help-line and registration of the award on the Register of Judgements, Orders and Fines. Work is also under way to create a scheme in which a nominated High Court Enforcement Officer is assigned to enforce awards originating from employment tribunals.

Injunctions

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will *(a)* collect and *(b)* publish statistics on the number of non-reportable injunctions issued by the High Court in each of the last five years. [293012]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not available. The High Court collects figures on applications, however injunctions are not separately identifiable, and there are currently no plans to amend databases to do so.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-2W, on the National Offender Management Service, how long each of the 184 employees have been registered as surplus under the terms of the Managing Surplus Employees Scheme. [290406]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to provide a retrospective review of each of the 184 employees who were identified at the time of the previous answer. The National Offender Management Service was at that time transferring its information to a Redeployment Register within a new on line service that manages both recruitment and vacancy management. Information was therefore drawn from both the online Redeployment Register and a legacy system.

148 employees records had been transferred to the NOMS Redeployment Register by 13 May. 36 records were found to be inappropriately entered on the spreadsheet as those staff were not surplus and therefore their entries were deleted from the database. A detailed breakdown is given in the following table. More detailed information is not available.

Number of staff	*Number of days on register as of 13 May*
2	27
2	26
6	22
15	21
22	20
13	19
11	16
5	15
16	14
4	13
9	12
22	8
9	7
2	6
1	5
4	2
4	1
1	[1]0
148	

[1]0 = entered on register on 13 May

Parole Board

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours of time spent by *(a)* judges and *(b)* lay members were allocated to Parole Board oral hearings in respect of prisoners on (i) whole life tariffs and (ii) other sentences in each of the last five years. [289467]

Bridget Prentice: The Parole Board does not record the number of hours spent on oral hearings by individual members as members (other than serving judges) are paid a set fee for each hearing they attend. The average three member oral hearing day starts at 10.30am and finishes at 5 p.m. with an average of two cases being heard. This does not take into account the time spent by members reading papers in advance of the hearing day and writing detailed decision letters after the hearing. Most three member oral hearing panels are chaired by a judge with a psychiatrist or psychologist when necessary and an independent member.

Judges are expected to allocate 15 days a year to Parole Board work, independent members 2.5 days per week and specialist members 35 days a year. The total number of three member oral hearings cases considered over the past five years is as follows:

	Number
2004-05	1,341
2005-06	1,512
2006-07	1,831
2007-08	2,072
2008-09	2,330

Whole life tariff cases are not referred to the Parole Board.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were awaiting a Parole Board post-panel review on the latest date for which figures are available. [289468]

Bridget Prentice: As at 31 July 2009, 34 cases were awaiting review by the Parole Board's Post Panel Department.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average period of time is for which a case for (i) oral hearing, (ii) paper hearing and (iii) other consideration before the Parole Board has been outstanding. [289469]

Bridget Prentice: The most up to date information about waiting times, as at 31 July 2009, is reflected as follows:

(i) Oral hearings

Three member oral hearing (indeterminate sentences):

(a) One year six months.

(b) One month.

(c) Five months.

Single member oral hearings (determinate sentences):

(a) 11 months.

(b) One month.

(c) Three months.

(ii) Paper hearings

Paper hearings/pre-tariff (indeterminate sentences):

(a) 16 months.

(b) One month.

(c) Three months.

Paper hearings (determinate sentences):

(a) Seven days.

(b) One day.

(c) 2.9 days.

(iii) Other consideration before the Parole Board has been outstanding

The Parole Board does not give 'other consideration' to cases other than the paper and oral hearings referred to above.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases for *(a)* oral hearings, *(b)* paper hearings and *(c)* other consideration before the Parole Board were outstanding on the latest date for which figures are available. [289472][1]

Bridget Prentice: As at the 31 July 2009 the number of cases was as follows:

(a) There were 1,625 indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPPs) cases awaiting three member oral hearings and 126 determinate cases awaiting single member oral hearings

(b) There were 324 IPPs cases awaiting a paper pre-tariff hearing.

(c) The Parole Board does not give 'other consideration' to cases other than the paper and oral hearings referred to above.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders whose tariffs had expired remained in prison while they awaited listing for an *(a)* oral hearing, *(b)* paper hearing and *(c)* other consideration before the Parole Board on the latest date for which figures are available. [289473]

Bridget Prentice: The tariff is the minimum period specified by the court which must be served before a prisoner is eligible for release on parole. There is nothing automatic about release on expiry of tariff, as the decision as to whether to release an offender has to be based on the assessed risk of harm which he presents—not on whether he has served the minimum period of imprisonment specified by the court. Therefore, any prisoner whose tariff has expired will remain in prison while they are awaiting an oral hearing, paper hearing or other consideration by the Parole Board to determine whether the risk of harm which they present is such that it might be safely managed in the community.

The total number of indeterminate prisoners whose tariff has expired and who were awaiting consideration as at 31 July 2009 was 1,284.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the operations of the Parole Board of its taking on the status of a court; what additional responsibilities the Parole Board would have under such arrangements; and what estimate he has made of the funding required by the Parole Board to discharge those responsibilities. [289553]

Bridget Prentice: We have recently published a consultation paper, 'The Future of the Parole Board', in which we are asking stakeholders to consider how best the Board be managed to ensure its independence from the Executive and its effectiveness and efficiency.

The paper is a first step in the consultation process and accordingly lays out a number of options for the future management of the Board. They are:

to leave existing sponsorship arrangements as they are; to transfer sponsorship of the Parole Board to Her Majesty Courts Service (HMCS) or the Tribunals Service;

to integrate the Parole Board fully into HMCS; and

to integrate the Parole Board fully into the Tribunals Service.

Until findings from the initial consultation are published in February 2010, the Ministry has not taken a view on the possible future arrangements for the management of the Board. Accordingly we have not undertaken detailed assessments of the effects of each of these options on the operations of the Board.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judicial reviews brought in relation to *(a)* the time taken to hear a case and *(b)* other matters the Parole Board (i) is contesting and (ii) has contested in each of the last five years; and what costs the Parole Board has incurred on contesting judicial reviews in each such year. [289554]

Bridget Prentice: The Parole Board only has figures for the past three years and includes all judicial review cases considered as follows:

	(a)	*(b)*	*Costs*[1] *(£)*
2006-07	8	74	113,850
2007-08	48	81	427,162
2008-09	60	48	770,529

[1] Costs include solicitors' fees and any costs and compensation awarded to claimants. All costs are borne by the Ministry of Justice.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Parole Board has taken in response to the recommendations of the National Audit Office report on Protecting the public: the work of the Parole Board, HC 239, 2007-08, published in March 2008. [289555]

Bridget Prentice: The Parole Board has been working closely with the Ministry of Justice on an action plan to implement the recommendations of the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee following publication of the report "Protecting the public: the work of the Parole Board". In particular the following progress has been made.

A new generic parole process was introduced from 1 April 2009 whereby the performance of all agencies involved in the parole process can be monitored.

An agreement has been reached about the mandatory documents required by the Parole Board and the production of prisoners' dossiers is being monitored.

A single IT system has been introduced that can be accessed by all relevant agencies.

Amended Parole Board Rules came into force on 1 April 2009.

A Reasons Framework was introduced from January 2009 and members are now required to provide evidence that they have "signed off" the final draft of the reasons for their decision.

The work load of members is monitored on a monthly basis. It shows that on average independent members are undertaking more than their expected work load.

Measures are being taken which are aimed at increasing the number of judges available to carry out Parole Board work.

Decisions and the reasons given for them are being reviewed by random sampling to assess them for quality.

The 2009 member recruitment round included a project with Operation Black Vote aimed at increasing the number of BME members on the Parole Board.

A public consultation paper on the future status of the Parole Board was published on 20 July 2009 for comment by 20 November 2009.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average period was between the original and rescheduled date of a deferred oral hearing before the Parole Board on the latest date for which figures are available. [289561]

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1. *[Official Report, 23 November 2009, Vol. 501, c. 5MC.]*

Bridget Prentice: The longest period between the original and rescheduled date of a deferred oral hearing before the Parole Board as at 31 July 2009 was 13.8 months.

The average period between the original and rescheduled date of a deferred oral hearing before the Parole Board as at 31 July 2009 was 3.5 months.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many oral hearings before the Parole Board were deferred in each of the last five years; and how many of those hearings were deferred more than once. [289562]

Bridget Prentice: The number of oral hearings before the Parole Board that has been deferred in each of the last five years is set out in the following table . The Parole Board does not have figures for the number of cases deferred more than once.

	Number
2004-05	358
2005-06	814
2006-07	1,243
2007-08	1,236
2008-09	1,086

Parole Board: Labour Turnover

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* caseworkers, *(b)* administrative staff at administrative officer or executive officer level and *(c)* staff at higher executive officer level or above were recruited to work at the Parole Board in each of the last five years; and how many of those positions were advertised (i) internally only and (ii) internally and externally. [289558]

Bridget Prentice: Figures where Parole Board posts were advertised are available only for the last three years. The following table sets out the information available:

Grade	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Administrative assistant	0	0	2 external only
Administrative officer	3 internal and external	5 internal and external	4 internal and external
Executive officer	2 internal and external. 1 external only	1 internal only. 3 internal and external. 1 external only	18 internal and external
Higher executive officer and above	2 external only	3 external only	4 internal and external. 4 external only

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* caseworkers, *(b)* administrative staff at administrative officer or executive officer level and *(c)* staff at higher executive officer level or above have left the employment of the Parole Board in each of the last five years. [289559]

Bridget Prentice: The number of staff, by grade, that have left the Parole Board, is set out in the following table:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Administrative assistant (AA)	2	1	0	0	0
Administrative officer (AO)	2	8	7	5	8
Executive officer (EO)	0	1	3	2	9
Higher executive officer (HEO)	1	1	1	1	2
Senior executive officer (SEO)	0	0	1	0	1
Secretary/personal secretary	0	1	0	0	0
Typist	0	0	1	0	1
Grade 7	0	0	0	0	0

Parole Board: Manpower

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many caseworkers the Parole Board employed to work on *(a)* oral hearings, *(b)* paper hearings, *(c)* post-panel reviews and *(d)* other matters in each of the last five years. [289560]

Bridget Prentice: The number of staff employed in each department of the Parole Board, is set out in the following table:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Oral Hearings Team	20	26	29	29	32
Paper Hearings Team	14	12	12	11	9
Post Panel Team	7	7	7	9	10
Re4Re Team (formerly RARE Team)	0	3	5	10	8
Listings and Rota/Reprographic/Post	0	4	3	4	7
Finance Department	3	4	4	4	4

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
IT Department	3	2	3	3	2
Human Resources Department	3	2	3	2	3
Corporate Services	1	3	2	5	4
Other Secretaries/Typists	5	5	4	1	2
Senior Members of Staff	4	5	6	7	8

Parole Board: Official Hospitality

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Parole Board has spent on hospitality in each of the last five years. [289556]

Bridget Prentice: The Parole Board has spent the following sums on hospitality:

	£
2004-05	263
2005-06	140
2006-07	238
2007-08	329
2008-09	201

Parole Board: Sick Leave

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days of sick leave were taken by Parole Board staff *(a)* as a result of stress-related conditions and *(b)* for other reasons in each of the last five years. [289557]

Bridget Prentice: The number of days sick leave taken by the Parole Board staff in the last five years is set out in the following table:

	Total number of days lost through sickness (annual figure average per member of staff)	*Number of sick days recorded as stress/stress related (average per member of staff)*	*Number of sick days recorded as other reasons (average per member of staff)*	*Total number of staff*
2004-05	8.8	1.6	7.2	60
2005-06	10.0	1.0	9.0	73
2006-07	11.8	4.5	7.3	78
2007-08	11.7	0.2	11.5	85
2008-09	11.4	1.8	9.6	89

Prisoners: European Convention on Human Rights

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments were made to prisoners as a result of cases brought under legislation implementing the European Convention on Human Rights in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [293079]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost and would involve the individual examination of several thousand files. The National Offender Management Service records litigation claims by the main type of allegation. Claims often make reference to alleged breaches of human rights. In some cases the claim will be brought wholly on an HRA basis. In others an HRA basis of claim will be but one of a number of alleged grounds of claim.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer Question 288113, on unpaid penalty notices for disorder, tabled on 15 July 2009. [292028]

Bridget Prentice: I replied on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 168W.

Youth Custody: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the total monthly cost of a custodial place at *(a)* young offender institutions, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* secure children's homes. [290208]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board calculates annual figures for the cost of places in the three types of establishment in the under-18 secure estate. As at 1 April 2009, these were as follows:

	Average annual cost per place (£000)
Secure children's home	215
Secure training centre	160
Young offender institution	60

Note:
VAT is not included within these figures.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Social Security Benefits

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will establish the number of spouses of armed forces personnel refused state benefits because of inadequate payment of national insurance contributions. [291510]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected in the form requested and we have no plans to do so.

The Service Command Paper 'The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans' (Cm 7424), published in July 2008, contained the Department's commitment to award Class 1 national insurance credits to spouses and civil partners of service personnel posted overseas with effect from April 2010. This will enable more members of service personnel families to qualify for jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual average flying hours of each aircraft type operating in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan was in each year since 2003; [289124]

(2) what the *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual average flying hours of each helicopter type operating in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan was in each year since 2003. [289125]

Bill Rammell: I am withholding the information requested for Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces. I can say, however, that between November 2006 and April 2009 we increased the number of helicopter flying hours in Afghanistan by 84 per cent.

For Op TELIC aircraft supporting operations in Iraq, information on the number of planned operational flying hours is not held by the Department for any fleet. For actual flying hours on operations, this information is not recorded centrally. I am able to provide information for some aircraft types and this is provided in the following tables . For all other fixed wing aircraft and helicopter fleets that have been deployed on Op TELIC the information is either no longer held by the department or could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All statistics have been rounded to the nearest five hours.

For Nimrod MR2, Hercules and Tornado GR4 the total number of actual flying hours flown on Op TELIC is given by financial year.

Nimrod MR2	*Total actual flying hours by financial year*
2003-04	1,040
2004-05	2,350
2005-06	1,975
2006-07	1,385
2007-08	725
2008-09	225

Hercules (all variants)	*Total actual flying hours by financial year*
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	[1]—
2005-06	[1]—
2006-07	[1]—
2007-08	5,855
2008-09	5,960

Tornado GR4	*Total actual flying hours by financial year*
2003-04	6,775
2004-05	6,585
2005-06	6,825
2006-07	8,150
2007-08	9,175
2008-09	7,425

For VCIO and Tristar the total number of actual flying hours flown on Op Telic is given by calendar year. VCIO was withdrawn from theatre in July 2009.

VCIO	*Total actual flying hours by calendar year*
2003	2,600
2004	2,695
2005	2,525
2006	3,245
2007	2,995
2008	3,150
January-July 2009	1,150

Tristar	*Total actual flying hours by calendar year*
2003	1,885
2004	20
2005	Nil
2006	5
2007	Nil
2008	Nil
2009	Nil

Over the period 2003-09 Nimrod R1 have flown a total of 1,770 hours and Sentry has flown 1,415 hours in support of Op Telic. It is not possible to break down these totals by year flown, without incurring disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pilots qualified to fly Puma helicopters have re-qualified to fly *(a)* Merlin and *(b)* Chinook helicopters in 2009 to date. [292325]

Bill Rammell: In 2009 to date, three qualified Puma pilots re-qualified to fly Chinook helicopters. In the same period, no qualified Puma pilots have re-qualified to fly Merlin helicopters.

Territorial Army: Training

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps have been taken to enable members of the Territorial Army to complete minimum training standards in order to qualify for bounty in 2009-10; [293136]

(2) whether members of the Territorial Army (TA) who do not meet the minimum requirements to qualify for bounty as a result of the proposed reduction in TA training will be awarded it. [293137]

Bill Rammell: All TA personnel will be given opportunities to complete the necessary activities to enable them to qualify for an annual bounty, if they have not already done so. One further set of military training tests will be run in each region of the country. In addition, extensions of the training year up to the 30 June 2010 may be permitted by the chain of command to provide those who have not yet completed the minimum number of training days the opportunity to do so.

There will be no waivers for those who fail to meet the minimum qualifying standards.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Bassetlaw constituency have child maintenance arrears of six months or more outstanding from *(a)* the Child Support Agency and *(b)* the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission. [292033]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many residents of Bassetlaw constituency have child maintenance arrears of six months or more outstanding from (a) the Child Support Agency and (b) the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission. [292033]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for the Child Support Agency from the Department for Work and Pension on 1 November 2008. The Child Support Agency continues to operate the current maintenance schemes until the Commission introduces the future maintenance scheme set out in the Child Maintenance and other Payments Act 2008. The future scheme is currently planned to be introduced in 2011.

Information relating to child maintenance payments by parliamentary constituency is regularly published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics, the latest version of which is available online at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/stats0609.html

Information on the number of parents who have child maintenance arrears outstanding is only available for cases on the current child maintenance scheme, introduced in 2003. The Commission estimates that at the end of June 2009 there were a total of 1,020 non-resident parents in Bassetlaw parliamentary constituency with six months or more child maintenance arrears outstanding.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many widows unsuccessfully applied to the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission for fresh assessments of maintenance following the death of their husband. [292040]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many widows unsuccessfully applied to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for fresh assessments of maintenance following the death of their husband. [292040]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission does not collate information on the marital status of its clients and is therefore not able to provide an answer to your question. It may be helpful if I explain that for the current statutory scheme the assessment of child maintenance due is based solely on the non-resident parent's income for each of the children that he or she is responsible for.

The circumstances of the parent with care are not taken into account when assessing the amount of maintenance due, therefore any changes in the parent with care's circumstances, including bereavement will not require a change in the maintenance assessment.

I should probably also make clear that in any case where the non-resident parent dies, the Commission will close the case. The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 included provision to allow the Commission to recover arrears of maintenance accrued from the non-resident parent's estate, however this provision has yet to be commenced. It is currently intended to bring forward regulations on recovery from deceased estates in 2010.

I hope that you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 59W, on departmental internet, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* versions are of the web browsers used on the (i) desktop machines and (ii) laptop computers used by her Department's (A) Permanent Secretary, (B) chief information officer, (C) head of communications and (D) head of finance. [288997]

Jim Knight: The Department uses Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 (6.0.2900.2180xpsp_sp2_gdr.080814-1233) on all of its desktop and laptop computers including those of the Permanent Secretary, Chief Information Officer, Head of Communications and Head of Finance.

Electronic Government

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual visitors accessed the Directgov service via *(a)* Sky, *(b)* Virgin Media, *(c)* NTL, *(d)* Telewest, *(e)* Freeview and *(f)* mobile telephones in each year for which figures are available. [292022]

Jim Knight: Directgov does not report against unique visitor numbers but instead uses visits. This is a more accurate metric to use over a period of time. Unique visitors are identified by cookies placed on a user's PC when they first arrive at the site and there is strong evidence to suggest that a large number of people periodically delete cookies. This will mean that they are identified as a separate unique user when they next return.

The following table represent the number of individual visitors to the Directgov service by each of the methods requested. Analogue TV figures have also been included, but please note that visitor figures for both Analogue TV and Freeview are approximate because these services are broadcasted rather than being accessed.

	Visits
Sky	
October 2006 to September 2007	55,503
October 2007 to September 2008	50,252
October 2008 to September 2009	107,105
VirginMedia[1]	
October 2006 to September 2007	281,779
October 2007 to September 2008	388,173
October 2008 to September 2009	403,087
Freeview[2]	
March 2009 to May 2009	440,000
Analogue TV[3]	
March 2009 to May 2009	460,000
Mobile	
October 2008 to September 2009	1,554,616

[1] Telewest and ntl merged to form Virgin Media in 2006.
[2] Launched 22 January 2009.
[3] Launched 16 January 2009.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the set up cost of making Directgov available via *(a)* Sky, *(b)* Virgin Media, *(c)* NTL, *(d)* Telewest, *(e)* Freeview and *(f)* mobile telephones was; and what the running costs of provision of the service via each platform has been in each year for which figures are available. [292023]

Jim Knight: The set-up and running costs for each individual platform are commercially sensitive, however, the annual running costs for these platforms are shown in the following table.

					£
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
TV total	437,288	705,542	772,908	641,313	863,016
Mobile total	—	—	73,775	175,704	497,371
Combined total	437,288	705,542	846,683	817,017	1,360,387

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost of employing a member of staff of each job title at Jobcentre Plus was in the latest period for which figures are available. [291216]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The information is not available in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints her Department has received from Jobcentre Plus staff on *(a)* working conditions and *(b)* other matters in each month in the last two years. [291220]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many complaints her Department has received from Jobcentre Plus staff about (a) their working conditions and (b) other matters in each month in the last two years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. As Mel Groves is currently on annual leave, I am replying in his absence.

The table summarises the available information which concerns correspondence from existing or former members of staff where enquiries are addressed to or delegated to either the Permanent Secretary, the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus or Jobcentre Plus Board members.

	Total	*Working conditions*	*Other*
2007			
September	16	13	3
October	22	17	5
November	14	11	3
December	10	9	1
2008			
January	20	15	5
February	24	20	4
March	16	16	0
April	15	12	3
May	15	13	2
June	14	13	1
July	19	17	2
August	18	9	9
September	21	19	2
October	17	16	1
November	13	10	3
December	16	15	1
2009			
January	11	7	4
February	10	5	5
March	1	1	0
April	11	8	3
May	12	9	3
June	11	8	3
July	4	3	1
August	10	10	0

Source:
Jobcentre Plus clerical records of complaints either addressed or delegated to the Permanent Secretary, the Chief Executive or other Jobcentre Plus Board members.
As this is clerical information full details may not be available.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability employment advisers in Jobcentre Plus are in *(a)* post and *(b)* training; and what estimate her Department has made of the number of disability employment advisers required by Jobcentre Plus to administer the operation of Pathways to Work and the migration of existing incapacity benefit claimants to employment and support allowance in the next four years. [290935]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question asking how many Disability Employment Advisers in Jobcentre Plus are in (a) post and (b) training; and what estimate her Department has made of the number of disability employment advisers required by Jobcentre Plus to administer the operation of Pathways to Work and the migration of existing incapacity benefit claimants to Employment and Support Allowance in the next four years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are around 450 full time equivalent Disability Employment Advisers in post. There are currently 30 Jobcentre Plus staff booked to start training as Disability Employment Advisers and a further 107 Jobcentre Plus staff identified as requiring this training in future events

Disability Employment Advisers are not responsible for the administration of Pathways to Work or the migration of Incapacity Benefit recipients to Employment and Support Allowance.

People moving into the Pathways to Work regime are seen by either a specialist Jobcentre Plus Pathways adviser or by an external Pathways provider. Mainstream programmes and support will be suitable for many people but they can be referred to a Disability Employment Adviser if the adviser feels that an individual would benefit from more specialist support. Although the migration to Employment and Support Allowance may increase the number of people being referred to the Disability Employment Advisers, it is expected to be manageable.

Jobcentre Plus has the equivalent of around 960 full time specialist Pathways advisers who support the operation of Pathways to Work. We do not record the number of advisers employed by external providers of Pathways. It is the responsibility of the external providers to ensure that their staff have the necessary skills to help the range of customers they deal with.

Plans for the migration of existing Incapacity Benefit claimants to Employment and Support Allowance are still being developed and it is too early at this point to provide robust figures for any changes to staffing and the skills required. Although Disability Employment Advisers are not directly involved in the migration, consideration will be given during the development of the processes and plans on any impact to the numbers required.

LinkAge Plus: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans she has to publish a report on the effectiveness and value for money of the Village Agents Scheme in Gloucestershire; and what assessment she has made of opportunities for wider application provided by the Scheme. [292434]

Angela Eagle: The Village Agents Scheme was part of the LinkAge Plus programme financed by DWP, which aimed to improve the well-being of older people, particularly by joining up services and including older people in service design.

There is already a national evaluation of the LinkAge Plus programme and a local evaluation of the Village Agents pilot. The national evaluation shows that there are significant benefits to be gained overall, for both older people and the taxpayer, from a holistic approach to local service delivery. The local evaluation concluded that the work of Village Agents, putting older people in touch with different statutory and voluntary agencies, resulted in people receiving more services. As older people have good experiences of receiving services, they are less reluctant to ask for support. This, in turn increased their awareness of preventative measures in relation to their continuing independence.

The principles of LinkAge Plus have been endorsed in the Government's ageing strategy "Building a society for all ages". The experiences and good practices from the Village Agents Scheme are included in a comprehensive LinkAge Plus DVD, which I launched on 20 October 2009. This brings together information, resources, tools, good practice and real life case studies. I will be writing to all local authority chief executives enclosing a copy of the DVD and encouraging its use to support engagement with older people, to build partnerships and to join up local services.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to reply to the letter dated 19 August 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North on her Department's Green Paper on disability benefits; for what reason no acknowledgement has been sent; and what the reasons are for the time taken to provide a substantive response. [293145]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 12 October 2009. The Department for Work and Pensions does not routinely acknowledge receipt of hon. Members' letters but aims to make a substantive reply within 20 working days. I am unable to give a particular reason for the delay, but I apologise to my hon. Friend for the unacceptable delay that occurred.

State Retirement Pensions: Males

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of men who will qualify for a full state pension as a result of the reduction in qualifying years for national insurance contributions from 44 to 39. [291465]

Angela Eagle: The number of qualifying years required for entitlement to a full basic state pension for men reaching state pension age from 6 April 2010 will be reduced from 44 years (39 for women) to 30. As a result of this and other changes in the 2007 Pension Act, we estimate that an extra 20,000 men and 40,000 women reaching state pension age in 2010-11 will be entitled to a full basic state pension.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Renewable Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legally binding targets have been set regarding renewable energy generation in UK Overseas Territories. [293298]

Chris Bryant: The UK has not set any legally binding targets for the Overseas Territories regarding renewable energy generation.

Egypt: Borders

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received since July 2009 on the number of tunnels between Egypt and Gaza; what further steps he is taking to assist the government of Egypt to prevent the flow of weapons through the Rafah border crossing into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [293289]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been a series of meetings of key partners in Copenhagen (February 2009), London (March 2009) and Ottawa (June 2009) to discuss potential counter-smuggling efforts. But given the Egyptian sensitivities to have been seen accepting assistance and the challenges of "upstream" interdiction, these have remained largely discussions and no further discussions are planned.

Gilad Shalit

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had since July 2009 with the International Red Cross on *(a)* the imprisonment of Gilad Shalit by Hamas and *(b)* the refusal of Hamas to allow Gilad Shalit visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross; and if he will make a statement. [293292]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We maintain regular dialogue with the International Committee of the Red Cross, including on the captivity of Gilad Shalit. While we welcome the videotape released by Hamas on 2 October 2009 as part of a prisoner swap deal, the continued captivity of Gilad Shalit is utterly unacceptable.

The UK shares the Shalit family's dismay at Hamas's refusal to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross access to Gilad Shalit. I met Noam Shalit, Gilad's father, in Tel Aviv in August 2009 to demonstrate our ongoing support.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the government of Israel on the findings of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict; and if he will make a statement. [292962]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu on 18 September 2009 and again on 14 October 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Israeli Defence Minister Barak on 29 September 2009 and 13 October 2009.

We have made clear that, while the Goldstone report has its flaws, there are serious allegations against both Hamas and Israel. Israel has undertaken a number of investigations. But we do not believe these have yet adequately addressed the concerns. We urge Israel to investigate allegations fully and credibly to ensure that there is full accountability for any breaches of the rule of law.

USA: United Nations Fact Finding Mission

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on the findings of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. [292968]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have regular discussions with our US counterparts on issues related to the Middle East Peace Process. This includes the findings of the UN-mandated Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the mission's findings with US Secretary of State Clinton on 11 October 2009.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Surveillance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on Members: surveillance, whether the Wilson doctrine prohibits surveillance of hon. Members by *(a)* the police and *(b)* local authorities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [292966]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 21 July 2009.

TREASURY

Banks: Government Assistance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much financial assistance was provided by the Government to the banking sector in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [293485]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1924W.

Business Interests

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether members of the board of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs are vetted for connections to (i) companies involved in tax avoidance and (ii) vulture fund companies. [292180]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government cannot comment on individual taxpayers' affairs but do everything they reasonably can to ensure that any arrangement they enter into is fully tax compliant.

The Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs have conflicts of interest policies in place which are guided by the Nolan principles of public life. Board members are required to declare any private interests (or interests of then close families) relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Executive members are bound by the civil service code and independent members are recruited through fair and open competition, consistent with the code set down by Civil Service Commissioners.

Child Tax Credit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in the investigation of *(a)* eligibility of claimants and *(b)* fraudulent claims for child tax credit in each year child tax credit has existed. [293172]

Mr. Timms: The precise information requested is not available.

The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff deployed on both tax credit and child benefit compliance activity is in the following table.

Date at April	*Number of staff (FTE)*
2009	1,475
2008	1,365
2007	1,405
2006	1,190
2005	[1]1,200
2004	[1]1,200

[1] Approximately. Precise information is not available for 2004 and 2005.

Information on tax credit error and fraud can be found at pages 89 and 99 of the annual departmental trust statements published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 418-9W, on the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, what forecast he has made of the price of carbon in the *(a)* second and *(b)* third phases of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [291495]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The prevailing market price of carbon is used to forecast auctioning revenues from Phase II of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Longer term forecasts for Phase III are based on the Department for Energy and Climate Change estimates of the traded price of carbon in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme up to 2050, which are set out in "Carbon Valuation in UK Policy Appraisal: A Revised Approach".

Excise Duties: Fuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average cost of a litre of petrol for the month of October has been since 2000; and what percentage of such costs was accounted for by road fuel duty in each such month; [291683]

(2) what cost-benefit analysis his Department made of the effects of the change in road fuel duty in September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [291681]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: When making decisions on fuel duty, the Chancellor takes into account all relevant economic, social and environmental factors. The increase in road fuel duty on 1 September this year will help to support the public finances in the medium term.

The following table sets out the average cost of a litre of petrol for the month of October since 2000, and the percentage of this cost that was accounted for by fuel duty.

	Pump price (pence per litre)	*Fuel duty rate*	*Percentage fuel duty*
2000	79.46	47.82	60
2001	75.11	45.82	61
2002	74.44	45.82	62
2003	75.84	47.10	6[illegible]
2004	83.13	47.10	5[illegible]
2005	94.00	47.10	50
2006	85.74	47.10	55
2007	97.03	50.35	52
2008	106.03	50.35	47

In addition to supporting fiscal consolidation, all fuel duty increases announced at Budget 2009 are estimated to result in a reduction of 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, per year, by 2013-14.

Income Tax

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income tax was due to the Exchequer in respect of how many people on 31 March 2009. [292510]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available except at disproportionate cost. However, for the total debt outstanding I refer the hon. Member to page 96 of HM Revenue and Customs' Annual Trust Statement available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292662]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department records the charitable status of those bodies that it supports through grant in aid, ongoing grants and strategic commissioning.

Payments to these bodies are set out in the following table.

£000

Charity name	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
NDPBs with exempt charity status			
British Library	107,086	106,608	114,281
British Museum	51,103	45,055	46,605
Imperial War Museum	24,022	22,304	21,034
Museum of London	0	8,826	8,593
National Gallery	26,527	25,798	26,336
National Maritime Museum	19,730	18,636	18,354
National Museum of Science and Industry	39,311	41,484	42,417
National Museums Liverpool	22,619	22,508	23,172

Charity name	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*£000* *2006-07*
National Portrait Gallery	7,853	7,193	6,771
Natural History Museum	53,047	45,425	47,785
Tate Gallery	61,544	46,097	35,661
The Royal Armouries	8,264	8,917	8,273
Victoria and Albert Museum	45,020	45,954	43,637
Wallace Collection	4,388	4,384	3,324
Registered charities			
Arts Council of England	436,831	425,992	476,552
Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust	300	455	450
Churches Conservation Trust	3,162	3,062	2,462
Design Museum	414	503	530
Geffrye Museum	1,748	2,215	1,571
Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College	2,200	1,500	1,500
Horniman Museum	4,757	4,358	4,467
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	4,788	4,451	4,886
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council	65,321	64,271	52,318
National Film and Television School	2,978	3,013	3,415
National Football Museum	103	144	104
Sir John Soane's Museum	1,339	1,389	1,264

Notes:

1. The Department changed its accounting system at the end of 2005-06. Comparative information for 2005-06 and earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
2. The Department does not routinely record the status of all recipients from other grant schemes for which eligibility is the custody of historic buildings or museum, library or archive collections, and a fuller list could be provided only at disproportionate cost.
3. Some figures are higher than those in the annual report and accounts as they include elements of Strategic Commissioning funding.

Cricket: Sport England

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* accuracy and *(b)* completeness of the most recent sports survey undertaken by Sport England in relation to cricket. [292567]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has not carried out any formal assessment.

The primary survey of adult cricket participation, commissioned by Sport England is the Active People survey. This survey was originally conducted in 2005-06, repeated in 2007-08 and runs continuously with results published quarterly. Active People, which measures adult participation in a range of sports and physical activity, is used to measure progress against a number of public outcomes including National Indicator 8 and Sport England's target to get one million adults more involved in sport by 2012.

The survey has a substantial annual sample size of 191,000, conducted every day (except for Christmas day). The sample takes into account seasonality, and utilises both random-digit-dialling and local stratification to ensure that the sample is representative. Active People has been adopted as a measurement tool by a variety of public bodies including the Department of Health, Local Government, the Arts Council as well as the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council. In being adopted for use within comprehensive area agreements, and subsequently local area agreements, the Active People survey has been recognised by the Audit Commission.

From 1 April 2009, the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 was extended to cover Sport England and the statistics it produces. As a result, Sport England is required to comply with the code of practice for producing and publishing official statistics. The principles within the code require 'sound methods and assured quality' (principle 4). Sport England published its policy for official statistics confirming its compliance with the code.

With regard to completeness, the Active People survey measures participation in sport (including cricket) and physical activity in accordance with the definitions applied to national targets. The targets measured by the survey cover participation of at least moderate intensity among those over the age of 16. On the basis of the chief medical officer's advice, a minimum threshold of 30 minutes participation in any one session is required to deliver health and other benefits.

Departmental Buildings

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the relocation of units of his Department to locations outside London. [289827]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To date the Department's non-departmental public bodies' (NDPB) have relocated 894 staff outside of London. We will continue to work with our NDPBs to identify other opportunities for relocations.

The Department has no plans to relocate units of the Department outside London.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293242]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The proportion of the Department for Culture Media and Sport procurement contracts awarded to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) businesses were as follows:

	Percentage
2006-07	48.6
2007-08	41.7
2008-09	42.4

Information for 2009-10 is not yet available.

The Royal Parks (TRP) does not routinely record the number of contracts that it awards to SMEs. The most recent information available relates to 2005: 77 per cent. of contracts (16 per cent. by value) were awarded to SMEs.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293329]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's staff guide under travel and subsistence and is consistent with the civil service management code.

The expenditure on first class rail travel by officials ordered via the Department's contracted travel agent in each of the last financial years is set out in the table. These amounts exclude any travel booked directly, which can be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	£
2008-09	46,033.75
2007-08	35,626.10
2006-07	70,496.60

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289972]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively and spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

The Department's accounting system does not record information by the specific categories requested and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The available information is set out as follows:

Ministerial cars

The Department for Transport publish an annual written ministerial statement on the cost of ministerial cars. The latest one for 2008-09 was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090716/wmstext/90716m0009.htm# 09071651000059

Similar information regarding ministerial cars relating to prior years can be viewed at:

2007-08

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080722/wmstext/80722m0008.htm

2003-04 to 2006-07

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080630/text/80630w0008.htm

Other car hire costs relating to Ministers are set out in the following table.

	£
2008-09	10,823.38
2007-08	17,054.99
2006-07	16,094.75
2005-06	13,947.79
2004-05	6,690.89

Ministers' UK travel and subsistence costs are set out in the following table.

	£
2008-09	15,071.77
2007-08	17,090.58
2006-07	16,499.50
2005-06	22,571.40
2004-05	13,102.46

Ministers' visits overseas

Since 1999 the Cabinet Office has published, on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500, as well as total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Civil servants' travel and subsistence costs are set out in the following table.

		£
	UK	*Overseas*
2008-09	146,108.08	234,101.26
2007-08	163,735.50	250,554.75
2006-07	193,620.21	297,832.07
2005-06	293,203.28	287,546.56
2004-05	166,500.58	279,710.59

Copies of written ministerial statements are deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates he met the Channel 4 board to discuss the draft updated statutory remit as set out in the Digital Britain report. [293382]

Mr. Simon: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, had no such meetings with the Channel 4 board. The Government have taken the views of the board on an updated Channel 4 remit, in accordance with our undertaking in the Digital Britain White Paper, via correspondence with the C4 chairman and correspondence and meetings between DCMS and Channel 4 officials.

Digital Broadcasting: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the Digital Britain report, on what date his Department published a community radio consultation seeking views on changes to the licensing regime. [293381]

Mr. Simon: The Consultation on Amendments to the Community Radio Licensing Regime was published on 16 June 2009.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions he has had with European Commission officials on transferring the Tote to the horse racing industry; [293547]

(2) when he expects the European Commission to rule on the sale of the Tote; [293548]

(3) when he last met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the sale of the Tote; [293549]

(4) what assessment he has made of the long-term effect on the monetary value to the Tote of changes in levels of online gambling; [293550]

(5) when the Tote's market value was last independently estimated; [293551]

(6) with reference to the written ministerial statement of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 114WS, on the sale of the Tote, whether he plans to make available to the horse racing industry half the net proceeds of an open market sale of the Tote; [293553]

(7) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 12WS, what recent assessment he has made of market conditions for selling the Tote. [293603]

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what timetable he has set for the sale of the Tote; and if he will make a statement; [293690]

(2) which organisations he expects to receive funding allocations from the 50 per cent. of proceeds from the sale of the Tote to be returned to horse racing; whether such allocations will be net of pension and other liabilities; and if he will make a statement; [293691]

(3) whether he plans to grant a pool monopoly to a purchaser when selling the Tote; and if he will make a statement; [293692]

(4) what estimate he has made of the revenue likely to be received from the sale of the Tote; and if he will make a statement; [293693]

(5) what expressions of interest he expects to receive from potential purchasers of the Tote; whether he plans to consider bids from horse racing organisations; and if he will make a statement; [293694]

(6) if he will take steps to guarantee the revenue income stream to the horse racing industry from the Tote following its sale; and if he will make a statement. [293695]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The arrangements for the sale of the Tote are yet to be determined and discussions are continuing with all the relevant parties. The present intention is that the sale process itself will not start until summer 2010 with a latest completion date of March 2011. We expect to be able to give further details on the process in the next few months.

The Government's position remains that we will honour our commitment to return half of the net proceeds of any market sale to racing subject to the requirements of European state aid and competition rules. I am unable to disclose commercially confidential or sensitive information about the valuation of the tote or prospective Government payments to agents.

Sport England: Internet

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the start-up cost of Sport England's Active Places website was; and what its running costs were in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [292570]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that in its first financial year of operation, 2004-05, the Active Places website cost a total of £1.98 million. This figure includes start-up costs and running costs for that year.

Running costs for 2008-09 were £0.894 million.

Sports: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of people aged *(a)* 11 to 15, *(b)* 16, *(c)* 17 to 18 and *(d)* over 18 years old were recorded as having participated in at least one active sport in the last four weeks in surveys in each of the last five years. [291343]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The following figures are the percentages of young people participating in at least one active sport in the last four weeks, broken down by age category. Data are derived from the results of the Taking Part Survey, which has been run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport since 2005.

The survey is divided into an adult and a child questionnaire, with the former covering respondents aged 16 and over.

Percentage

	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Child survey							
(a) 11 to 15 years old	95	94.9	96.3	—	—	—	—
Adult survey							
(b) 16 years old	—	—	—	82.5	82.2	86.6	77.5
(c) 17 to 18 years old	—	—	—	80	77.9	78.8	75.1
(d) 18+ years old	—	—	—	52.3	52.1	52.1	52.2

To address this, through the Sport Unlimited initiative, Sport England works closely with the Government to deliver the five hour Young People's Sports Offer. Over three years, the programme will enable 900,000 children and young people to take part in 10-week taster sessions in sports and aims to get 300,000 participants to join clubs and continue with sport beyond those sessions. Additionally, one of Sport England's strategic targets is to reduce the drop off among 16 to 18-year-olds in nine key sports. This target will be measured by the Active People survey and is based on reducing the gap between 16 and 18-year-old participation by 25 per cent. The national target is therefore to increase overall participation in the nine drop off sports among 18-year-olds to 31 per cent.

The latest 12 month rolling participation figure illustrates that there has been a statistically significant increase in overall participation in the nine drop off sports among 18-year-olds from 189,100 to 202,500. If this level of overall participation in the nine drop off sports were maintained until the end of the current strategy period then the participation figures are expected to reach the target of 31 per cent.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Members: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to reply to the letters of 23 February 2009 and 23 May 2009 from the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling on behalf of Mr. Colin Packman. [290918]

Michael Jabez Foster: I have now written to the right hon. Gentleman.

It is regrettable that there is no record of the original letters of 23 February and 23 May being received by the Department. I apologise, however, that the reply intended to be sent by the end of July was not sent until 4 September.

CABINET OFFICE

Death: Pregnancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many women aged *(a)* 12 to 16, *(b)* 17 to 21, *(c)* 22 to 24, *(d)* 25 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 35, *(f)* 36 to 40 and *(g)* 41 years and older have died from pregnancy-related diseases in each year since 1979, broken down by cause of death. [293416]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply

This information is not collected centrally. However, the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health publishes a report once every three years, formerly entitled Why Mothers Die, but now entitled "Saving Mothers' Lives". The most recent, published in December 2007, covered the years 2002-05. This publication gives numbers of deaths in the United Kingdom reported to the enquiry in the three-year periods considered and divides them into deaths directly and indirectly due to pregnancy and childbirth, (it also includes coincidental deaths and late deaths, which are not included in the table). Table 1.3 on page 8 of the latest report gives numbers and rates per 100,000 maternities of maternal deaths reported to the enquiry by cause in the United Kingdom form 1985-2005. However, this table does not capture the mothers age. A copy of the latest report has already been placed in the Library.

Total number of direct and indirect deaths by age of the women who died; United Kingdom: 1985 to 2005

	Under 20	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40 and over*
1985-87	15	47	53	60	35	13
1988-90	17	38	74	57	31	18
1991-93	7	30	87	61	36	7
1994-96	15	40	71	70	53	11
1997-99	19	34	60	66	50	13
2000-02	16	30	70	79	47	19
2003-05	15	39	66	91	64	20

Notes:

1. Direct deaths result from obstetric complications of the pregnant state, from interventions, omission, incorrect treatment or from a chain of events resulting from any of these.

2. Indirect deaths result from previous existing disease, or disease that developed during pregnancy and which was not due to direct obstetric causes, but which was aggravated by the physiological effects of pregnancy.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many staff there were in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's office (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available. [292069]

Angela E. Smith: Cabinet Office staff numbers are published quarterly and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Table6AllDepts.xls

The most recent quarterly publication has been placed in the Library.

For the number of staff in the Prime Minister's Office I refer my hon. Friend to the replies given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1254W, and my hon. Friend the Member for Nottingham, North (Mr. Allen) on 5 November 2001, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Lobbying: Publications

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she plans to respond to the First Report of the Public Administration Select Committee of Session 2008-09 on Lobbying: access and influence in Whitehall. [293268]

Angela E. Smith: The Government intend to respond to the Committee's report very shortly.

Members: Correspondence

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the letter from the Cabinet Secretary to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 21 April 2009, if she will place in the Library a copy of the full email correspondence between Mr. Damian McBride, Mr. Charlie Whelan, Mr. Andrew Dogshon and Mr. Derek Draper referred to in this letter. [290326]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Secretary's letter of 14 April to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) made clear that Damian McBride's actions constituted a clear and serious breach of the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers" which had not been tolerated. His actions were unacceptable and inappropriate. It would therefore not be appropriate to make the e-mails public.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what policy applies to the appointment of policy advisers who are not special advisers to assist Ministers on 12 month contracts; and what recent guidance the Cabinet Secretary has issued on the subject. [292596]

Angela E. Smith: Recruitment into the civil service is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Order-in-Council, and the Civil Service Commissioners' recruitment principles.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies: Official Gifts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance sets out the procedures to be followed by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* senior officials of non-departmental public bodies in relation to their receipt of gifts. [287742]

Tessa Jowell: The principles governing the acceptance of gifts by civil servants are set out in the "Civil Service Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code". The principles governing the handling of gifts received by officials of non-departmental public bodies are set out in the Cabinet Office model code for staff of Executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). Individual Departments and NDPBs will normally have additional guidance based on these principles.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Speaker

Kate Hoey: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what procedures were used to recruit Mr. Speaker's special adviser; who *(a)* carried out those procedures and *(b)* set the salary for that post; and what the (i) salary and (ii) job specification is for that post. [293163]

Nick Harvey: Mr. Speaker's special adviser was engaged via a contract for Services—not an employment contract—under the House's normal procurement arrangements. He is to be paid an agreed rate per day worked. The amount is commercial in confidence.

A copy of the special adviser's job description is being placed in the Library.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials will accompany the ministerial delegation to the UN framework convention on climate change conference in Copenhagen; and from which Departments those officials will be drawn. [293423]

Joan Ruddock: We have not yet determined who will attend from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, so we cannot say with certainty how many Ministers or officials will be on the delegation. This will depend largely on the state of international negotiations at the time of the conference.

Last year for COP14 in Poznan the UK delegation comprised 47 people from DECC, DfID, FCO, DfT and BERR. Given the importance of the Copenhagen meeting, the UK delegation may well be significantly larger on this occasion.

Coal: Industrial Health and Safety

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many Group 3 coal health compensation claims submitted by each solicitor's firm have been disputed. [292003]

Mr. Kidney: The number of claims submitted by claimants' representatives for vibration white finger (VWF) that fall under the Group 3 category is shown in the following table as at 4 October 2009.

We are unable to provide this information for claims submitted under the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease scheme as these are assessed by different criteria and are not categorised by groups.

Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*Total claims*
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	AMS UDM Claims Only	84
Atha and Co. Solicitors	Middlesbrough	1
Atteys	Doncaster	1
Atteys	Retford	1
Atteys	Rotherham	55
Avalon Solicitors	Warrington	1
Bakewells	Derby	1
Banner Jones	Chesterfield	1
BBH Solicitors	Cheshire	2
BBH Solicitors	Wirral	4
Bell Dallman and Co.	Doncaster	3
Ben Hoare Bell and Co. Solicitors	Sunderland (Southwick)	6
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	12

Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*Total claims*
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (UDM Only)	135
BHP LAW	Belmont	8
Branton Bridge	Manchester	9
BRM Solicitors	Chesterfield	1
BRM Solicitors	Chesterfield—UDM claims only	2
Browell Smith and Co.	Newcastle—SPSSG	2
Browell Smith and Co.	Newcastle upon Tyne	550
Campbell Smith W.S.	Edinburgh—Scottish claims only	5
Colemans Solicitors	Manchester	7
Corries Solicitors	Glasgow—Scottish claims only	18
Corries York	York	14
D. W. Shaw Solicitors	Cumnock—Scottish claims only	1
David W Harris and Co. Solicitors	Pontyclun	1
Davis Blank Furniss	Manchester	1
Digby Brown and Co. Solicitors	Glasgow—Scottish claims only	1
DMH Stallard	Brighton	3
Emsleys Solicitors	Leeds	1
Endlars Solicitors	86A Bury Old Road	1
Farleys Solicitors	Burnley	2
Foys Solicitors	Worksop	1
Furley Page	Canterbury	44
Gabb and Co.	Powys	18
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	50
Graysons Solicitors	Chesterfield	1
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	317
Hartley and Worstenholme Solicitors	Pontefract	1
Hickmotts Solicitors	Rotherham	25
Hollis and Co. Solicitors	—	1
Holmes and Hills Solicitors	Great Dunmow	6
Hopkins	Eden Court, Mansfield	6
Housemans Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	1
Hugh James	Cardiff	347
Hugh James	Respiratory Disease Department	1
Hutchinson Morris and L. C. Thomas	Neath	1
Ibbotson Brady Solicitors	Leeds	1
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	49
J. Keith Park and Co. Solicitors	The Litigation Group	1
J. M. Skinner Solicitors	Birkenhead	1
Jackson Heath Solicitors	Leeds	1
Jordans Solicitors	Wakefield	1
Keeble Hawson	Doncaster	14
Keeble Hawson Moorhouse	Sheffield	17
Kenyon Son and Craddock	32 South Parade	1
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	117
Kingslegal	Cardiff	38
L. A. Steel	Barnsley	1
Latham and Co. Solicitors	Leicester	74
Latham and Co. Solicitors	Loughborough	1
Leo Abse and Cohen	Cardiff	1
Lloyd Green Solicitors	Glasgow—UDM Only	1
Lopian Wagner Solicitors	Manchester	5
Macquillan and Co	Gwent	1
Maidments Solicitors	Bolton	1
Malcolm C. Foy and Co. Solicitors	Doncaster	2
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle upon Tyne	1
Marrons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	3
McConville O'Neill Solicitors	Glasgow—Scottish	1
McLeish Carswell	Glasgow	1
McLeish Carswell	Glasgow—Scottish claims only	13
Meloy Whittle Robinson	Preston	15
Mills Kemp and Brown Solicitors	Barnsley	1
Mincoffs Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	7
MLM Solicitors	Cardiff	2
Morisons Solicitors	Edinburgh	1

Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*Total claims*
Morisons Solicitors	Edinburgh—Scottish claims only	27
Mortons Solicitors	Sunderland	61
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	35
Moss Solicitors	Moss UDM claims only	106
Moxon and Barker Solicitors	Belks Court Pontefract	1
Newman and Bond Solicitors	Barnsley	1
O. H. Parsons and Partners Solicitors	London	69
Oxley and Coward Solicitors	Rotherham	10
Pannone and Partners Solicitors	Manchester	1
Patchell Davies Solicitors	Gwent	1
Peace Revitt Solicitors	Wombwell	10
Raleys Solicitors	—	1
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	251
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	Llanelli	66
Richard J. Knaggs and Co.	Redcar	4
Robinson and Murphy Solicitors	Newcastle	1
Robinson King Solicitors—Ceased trading	Stockport	2
Saffmans Solicitors	Leeds	13
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	Doncaster	52
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	15
Sherwood-Smith, Tilley and Co.	Houghton Le Spring	1
Simpson Millar Solicitors	Leeds	3
Smith and Graham Solicitors	Hartlepool	1
T. S. Edwards and Son Solicitors	Newport	3
T. S. Edwards and Son Solicitors	Ystrad Mynach	36
The Paul Rooney Partnership	Liverpool	1
Thompson and Co. Solicitors	Sunderland	57
Thompsons	—	1
Thompsons Solicitors	—	156
Thompsons Solicitors	Edinburgh—Scottish claims only	186
Thompsons Solicitors	Manchester	2
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle—Scottish claims	1
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	796
Thompsons Solicitors	South Shields	1
Thornleys	Huddersfield	10
Tilly Bailey and Irvine Solicitors	Hartlepool	2
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	2
Towells Solicitors	Wakefield	112
Treanors Solicitors	Sunderland	2
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	33
Wake Smith and Tofields Solicitors	Sheffield	2
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle upon Tyne	207
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle upon Tyne—Scottish only	1
Total		4,490

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many payments in respect of disputed claims made under the coal health compensation scheme have been made to each of the 50 solicitors' firms which have made the highest number of such claims. [292008]

Mr. Kidney: The following table shows the number of payments made for claims with a Schedule 20 Dispute or a Formal Dispute under the terms of the Claims Handling Agreements that were submitted by the top 50 claimants' representatives (by claim volume) as at 4 October 2009.

Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*COPD disputed claim*	*COPD disputed claims costs count*
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	15	11
Hugh James	Respiratory Disease Dept	282	248
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	242	221
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	94	73
Browell Smith and Co	Newcastle upon Tyne	53	40
Avalon Solicitors	Warrington	2	2
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle upon Tyne	29	24
Thompsons Solicitors	Edinburgh—Scottish claims only	116	92

Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*COPD disputed claims*	*COPD disputed claims costs count*
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	59	52
Barber and Co	Liverpool	11	8
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle upon Tyne	30	28
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	254	233
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	Llanelli	110	88
Delta Legal	Manchester	17	16
Ingrams Solicitors	Hull—COPD only	16	14
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	26	18
Birchall Blackburn	Preston	2	1
Corries Solicitors	Glasgow—Scottish claims only	—	0
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (UDM only)	—	0
Towells Solicitors	Wakefield	53	24
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	Sheffield	5	4
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	2	2
Corries York	York	2	1
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	6	6
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	12	12
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (Scottish claims)	1	1
BRM Solicitors	Chesterfield	11	8
Avalon Solicitors	Manchester (Scottish only)	—	0
Moss Solicitors	Moss UDM claims only	5	4
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	AMS UDM claims only	7	7
Hilary Meredith Solicitors	Wilmslow	1	1
Wake Smith and Tofields Solicitors	Sheffield	3	3
I Legal Solicitors	Swansea	—	0
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	2	2
Atteys	Rotherham	12	11
O H Parsons and Partners Solicitors	London	20	19
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle upon Tyne (Scottish only)	3	3
Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers	Victoria	1	1
Recompense Limited	Totnes	—	0
Simpson Millar Solicitors	Leeds	2	1
Onyems and Partners	Essex	5	1
Bailey Bravo Jobling	London	1	1
Shaw and Co Solicitors	Doncaster	18	15
Furley Page	Canterbury	38	33
Mortons Solicitors	Sunderland	18	9
Maloy Whittle Robinson	Preston	2	1
Morisons Solicitors	Edinburgh—Scottish claims only	2	2
Marrons Solicitors	Newcastle upon Tyne	4	3
McConville O'Neill Solicitors	Glasgow—Scottish	—	0
Latham and Co Solicitors	Leicester	6	5
Total		1,700	1,371

Energy Supply: Meters

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum premium paid by customers for using pre-payment meters for domestic (i) gas and (ii) electricity supply. [289644]

Mr. Kidney: The most recent figures on tariffs are those for October 2009. The new rules outlawing undue price discrimination came into force in September.

According to the latest available figures prices for an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity per year, indicate an average annual differential of £10 (pre-payment compared with standard credit) and a maximum differential of £38, if prompt payment discounts on standard credit are included. If they are not, these figures are -£5 and £7 respectively.

For an average consumer using 20,500 kWh of gas per year, October 2009 prices indicate an average annual differential of £22 and a maximum differential of £73 if prompt payment discounts are included. Without prompt payment discounts, these figures are -£5 and £58 respectively.

The "minus" figures indicate that in some cases prices for pre-payment meters are lower than those for some standard credit customers.

The average dual fuel pre-payment customer now pays £4 less than the average standard credit dual fuel customer. This compares to a figure of £41 more in July 2008.

Ofgem produces estimates of domestic household energy bills, and these reflect current prices as at October 2009 prices. The maximum and average differentials given here mean the difference between standard credit and pre-payment tariffs available to consumers by a single supplier within one region. Figures for standard credit are complicated by the fact that some suppliers offer a discount to standard credit consumers who pay promptly, so we have noted these variants.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Charlie Whelan

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what matters were discussed at the meeting between the Secretary of State and Charlie Whelan on 29 January 2009. [292178]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State met Mr. Charlie Whelan on 15 January (not on 29 January) in the course of his official duties. They discussed employment issues.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to give further education colleges greater financial freedom to enable them to make flexible use of funding streams; and if he will make a statement. [293104]

Kevin Brennan: Following consultation in January 2007, the Learning and Skills Council introduced two main funding routes for adult training (Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive). This rationalised the larger number of funding streams that were previously in place and provided colleges and providers with increased ability to move funds between programmes.

We continue to listen to feedback from the sector as part of assessing the impact of introducing the new funding models in 2008/09 academic year. A key aspect of the funding system is ensuring that the full range of adult learners are able to access programmes that meet their needs especially where they are less able to articulate these needs.

Grocery Trade

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria he plans to use in reaching a decision on whether or not to establish a grocery market ombudsman; and when he plans to make his decision on the recommendations of the Chairman of the Competition Commission for such an ombudsman. [293280]

Kevin Brennan: Government will weigh up a number of factors including possible costs or savings being passed on to consumers, the potential for a better deal for suppliers and regulatory burdens for supermarkets. We will take into account the careful analysis already carried out by the CC in its report and make a decision later this year.

Higher and Further Education: Buildings

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills from whom a *(a)* university and *(b)* further education college is required to seek permission to sell any of its buildings to a private company for (i) educational use and (ii) non-educational use; and if he will make a statement. [293132]

Mr. Lammy: Higher education institutions in receipt of funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) are not required to seek the permission of the council before the disposal of assets, including land or buildings regardless of their current or future use. In its financial memorandum with HEFCE each institution is required to operate an estates strategy which keeps under review their current and future assets requirement, and identifies opportunities for rationalisation where appropriate.

The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 provides that further education colleges may acquire and dispose of land and other property but the Act does not require a corporation to seek permission before doing so. However, in its financial agreement with colleges, the Learning and Skills Council does require a college to obtain its consent for capital transactions, where the total cost or proceeds exceed £1.5 million or 5 per cent. of the college's annual revenue (whichever is the lesser). The use of a building after sale does not affect this requirement.

Internet: Disabled

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Digital Britain report, what reports his Department has received from the Consumer Expert Group on issues relating to people with disabilities' use of the internet. [293383]

Mr. Timms: I have received the Consumer Expert Group report into the use of the internet by disabled people: barriers and solutions. I am most grateful for this report, and the valuable contributions made to it not only by members of the Consumer Expert Group but also by a range of experts representing people with particular needs. The 16 recommendations are challenging and will be considered carefully by Government in conjunction with industry and the third sector. I have arranged for copies to be available in the Libraries of both Houses, and for the report to be published on the web alongside other Digital Britain publications.

Learning and Skills Improvement Service: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department provided to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion this constituted of the total budget of the Service. [293413]

Kevin Brennan: In 2008-09 BIS (then DIUS) funding was £99 million which represents 68 per cent. of the total LSIS income for that financial year.

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he will reply to the letters of 1 June and 3 September 2009 from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare on behalf of his constituent, Mrs. Jane Johnstone. [293200]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has no record of receiving these letters. Officials requested copies of these letters from the hon. Member and they have now been received. He will receive a response in due course.

Network Design and Procurement Group

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the Digital Britain report, on what date the Network Design and Procurement Group was established. [293384]

Mr. Timms: The Network Design and Procurement Group, now called the Network Design and Procurement Company, was incorporated on 13 October.

Public Houses: Satellite Broadcasting

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Competition Commission on the supply to public houses of satellite television services; and if he will make a statement. [293667]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has had no recent discussions with the Competition Commission on this issue.

Train to Gain Programme: Skills for Life Programme

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding support for the *(a)* Train to Gain and *(b)* Skills for Life programme (i) was provided in 2008-09 and (ii) is to be provided in 2009-10 to each receiving college in the North East. [292801]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has responsibility for the funding of post 19 further education and skills.

Investment in Train to Gain in 2008-09 was £867 million and we plan to invest £925 million in 2009-10 (LSC grant letter, November 2008).

Skills for Life delivery is spread across a number of programmes and funding is incorporated within those budget lines. The amount of funding made available for Skills for Life is based on planned levels of activity for an academic year. Planned investment in adult (19+) Skills for Life courses delivered through Train to Gain and Adult Learner Responsive routes is nearly £600 million for 2008-09 and nearly £670 million for 2009-10 financial years. The final actual spend for the 2008/09 academic year is not yet available.

We do not hold information on LSC spend by region centrally. I have asked the chief executive of the LSC to write to you giving details of the funding provided to each college in the North East with a copy being placed in the House.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1756-7W on the Union Modernisation Fund, if he will place in the Library a copy of the audit reports from those additional companies. [292964]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 836W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accreditation Service for International Colleges

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what investigations his Department has made into the Accreditation Service for International Colleges; and if he will make a statement. [292794]

Mr. Woolas: The Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC) has been approved by the UK Border Agency as an accreditation body under tier 4 of the points-based system, having met the criteria set by the agency with the assistance of Ofsted.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the aim of the alcohol arrest referral pilot is; how much has been *(a)* distributed to and *(b)* spent by each local authority through the pilot in each year since its inception; and how much his Department expects to award under the pilot in the next two years. [292417]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The aim of the alcohol arrest referral pilots is a reduction in alcohol related re-offending. The arrest referral pilots have been provided with grants by the Home Office which have either been administered by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAATs) or the primary care trusts (PCTs). A table containing the amounts paid to the alcohol arrest referral pilots for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found at Table 1. No decisions have yet been made in respect of funding for 2010-11.

Table 1: Organisations that received alcohol arrest referral (AAR) pilot grant funding for the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Blackpool Council Children's Services	—	20,000	53,125	73,125
Bristol PCT	—	24,753	42,277	67,030
Chester DAAT	82,000	125,500	—	207,500
Cleveland DAAT	—	94,350	227,066	321,416
Cumbria DAAT	—	42,195	89,130	131,325

Table 1: Organisations that received alcohol arrest referral (AAR) pilot grant funding for the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10

£

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Total*
Ealing PCT	81,000	126,000	—	207,000
East Sussex DAAT	—	35,000	138,334	173,334
Islington PCT	—	66,125	—	66,125
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland DAAT	—	72,730	156,770	229,500
Lincolnshire DAAT	—	25,000	83,875	108,875
Liverpool DAAT	82,000	166,500	138,750	387,250
Manchester DAAT	82,000	91,500	—	173,500
Newcastle Council Children's Services	—	30,000	102,166	132,166
North East Lincolnshire DAAT	—	31,250	75,000	106,250
Northamptonshire DAAT	—	54,335	129,831	184,166
Staffordshire DAAT	—	30,000	100,000	130,000
Stoke-on-Trent Community Safety Partnership	—	63,000	135,333	198,333
Swindon DAAT	—	40,416	87,084	127,500
Total	327,000	1,138,654	1,558,741	3,024,395

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what categories of expenditure are covered by the Alcohol Arrest Referral Pilot; how many people have participated in the pilot; what assessment has been made of the re-offending rate among those who attended advice sessions in each year since the grant began; and what estimate he has made of the likely re-offending rates in pilot areas in the next two years. [292418]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The grants paid by the Home Office in relation to the Alcohol Arrest Referral pilots cover both the start up and running costs of the scheme. These costs include staff costs, administration, recruitment, training and IT costs. The Alcohol Arrest Referral pilots are currently being independently evaluated and the final report of the evaluation will be finished in summer 2010. We will not know the re-offending rates until the evaluation is complete.

Animal Experiments: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland were recorded in 2008; and how many of those resulted in a prosecution. [291588]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During 2008 there were three infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 reported at designated establishments in Scotland, none of which resulted in a prosecution.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many project licences in respect of work to be carried out in Scotland were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2008; and how many such project licences were in force at the end of 2008. [291819]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During 2008 153 project licences were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland. On 31 December 2008 there were 491 project licences in force in Scotland.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places in Scotland were designated as *(a)* a supplying establishment, *(b)* a breeding establishment and *(c)* a scientific procedure establishment under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 at the end of 2008. [291823]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As at 31 December 2008 in Scotland there were 12 supplying, 19 breeding and 32 user establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. An establishment can be a user, breeder and supplier.

Antisocial Behaviour

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the use of Mosquito ultrasonic deterrent devices; and if he will make a statement. [292957]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 October 2009]*: The Home Office has received the following representations about the use of the Mosquito ultrasonic dispersal device:

Six (letters) from MPs on behalf of their constituents;

19 PQs from seven different MPs;

14 letters from members of the public and local authorities.

Of these, six were concerned that the device might breach a person's human rights and three were concerned with the legality of the device. Other questions and correspondence received referred to the use of the device and whether the Home Office will ban the device or provide guidance.

The Home Office encourages local agencies to consider the full range of innovations, schemes and practices intended to reduce crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. It is for local agencies like the police and local authorities to decide on the most appropriate interventions to tackle antisocial behaviour based on their knowledge of what works best locally, adopting a tiered approach to tackling antisocial behaviour using a blend of measures to provide a proportionate response.

The Home Office does not recommend or promote any commercial ultrasonic dispersal device or venture and at the present time does not have any plans to take further action on this matter.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in England in the last three years. [292226]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 October 2009]*: Information on the number of Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued is available up to 31 December 2007. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in England during 2005 was 3,907, in 2006 2,507 and in 2007 2,136, making a total of 8,550.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289604]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest period has been between the *(a)* application for and *(b)* issue or refusal of a UK visa in Pakistan; and on what date the successful appeal against refusal of that visa was concluded. [292367]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) holds records of visa applications dating back to 1992 but it is not possible to ascertain precisely the processing times for older cases. Therefore, the UKBA has examined applications made in Pakistan since January 2006.

The longest processing time from application to decision was 917 working days in respect of a family reunion application. The application was issued and hence there was no subsequent appeal.

Current processing times are advertised on the Visa Services website at:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Firearms

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearm offences, excluding those in which an air weapon was used, were recorded in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1998-99. [291776]

Alan Johnson: Available data relate to offences recorded in the period 1998-99 up to and including 2007-08, and are shown in the following table. Firearm statistics for 2008-09 are expected to be published in January 2010.

Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat.

The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Data for the years up to and including 2001-02 are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by region and police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Recorded crime

Total number of offences

Police force area	*1998-99*[2]	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*[3]	*2002-03*[4]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East Region										
Cleveland	20	26	16	24	18	45	37	41	19	15
Durham	13	40	18	19	16	15	21	18	14	45
Northumbria	76	107	99	86	103	169	182	137	111	78
North West Region										
Cheshire	32	22	44	50	31	44	61	71	41	59
Cumbria	11	5	13	9	13	11	26	18	21	18
Greater Manchester	647	875	935	1,361	1,240	1,275	1,268	1,200	993	1,160
Lancashire	50	78	59	103	66	58	259	372	364	349
Merseyside	286	240	278	299	318	483	491	485	410	398
Yorkshire and the Humber Region										
Humberside	76	61	69	63	68	68	174	108	117	58
North Yorkshire	11	8	9	28	18	23	13	15	14	17
South Yorkshire	75	114	129	170	153	127	185	301	211	202
West Yorkshire	193	191	335	332	333	209	318	355	319	332
East Midlands Region										
Derbyshire	52	65	72	58	73	75	149	109	83	70
Leicestershire	98	71	58	74	174	141	123	89	109	134
Lincolnshire	16	19	24	22	37	26	90	72	45	41
Northamptonshire	54	48	40	55	107	123	113	128	159	164
Nottinghamshire	111	173	157	204	264	233	303	277	196	240

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (including air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] by region and police force area: England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2007-08

Recorded crime

Total number of offences

Police force area	*1998-99*[2]	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*[3]	*2002-03*[4]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
West Midlands Region										
Staffordshire	23	53	108	116	131	108	144	128	94	123
Warwickshire	20	14	39	53	62	102	73	80	90	107
West Mercia	38	36	41	54	48	62	151	115	58	124
West Midlands	408	664	817	1,288	1,101	1,138	959	946	979	974
East of England Region										
Bedfordshire	46	56	48	82	86	89	94	103	86	83
Cambridgeshire	35	43	31	49	57	34	50	34	24	30
Essex	47	61	77	98	148	145	193	280	255	260
Hertfordshire	30	36	36	69	139	138	139	114	89	112
Norfolk	34	24	20	26	36	33	23	29	34	43
Suffolk	15	18	22	15	28	45	59	58	42	38
London Region[5]	2,034	2,945	3,036	4,199	4,202	3,891	3,697	3,884	3,331	3399
South East Region										
Hampshire	38	52	49	58	97	130	148	85	122	100
Kent	76	109	108	60	64	65	100	142	92	82
Surrey	35	42	52	40	34	88	63	87	60	70
Sussex	115	119	110	155	136	82	67	85	84	69
Thames Valley	96	107	198	267	362	421	437	401	332	322
South West Region										
Avon and Somerset	71	103	100	131	119	123	196	167	138	116
Devon and Cornwall	75	81	64	52	36	84	189	174	132	111
Dorset	11	12	14	34	17	45	49	27	28	21
Gloucestershire	22	21	23	89	92	108	87	77	65	43
Wiltshire	19	10	13	26	60	53	49	43	69	49
Wales										
Dyfed Powys	16	13	26	26	17	37	40	21	17	25
Gwent	26	19	11	18	52	74	85	53	33	47
North Wales	27	10	6	6	18	11	60	88	98	53
South Wales	31	52	67	56	74	47	104	71	67	84
England and Wales	5,209	6,843	7,471	10,024	10,248	10,338	11,069	11,088	9,645	9,865
***England and Wales* (excluding London Region)**	3,175	3,898	4,435	5,825	6,046	6,447	7,372	7,204	6,314	6,466

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[1] Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person or used as a threat.

[2] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[3] Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.

[4] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002, which may have resulted in inflated figures for some crime categories. Figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.

[5] City of London and Metropolitan police force areas.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces use the Forensic Science Service centre in Chorley. [291452]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Under its current business model, the Forensic Science Service laboratory in Chorley can process work from any force in England and Wales, depending upon the type of test required. Chorley does not have the facilities to undertake the full range of forensic analysis. Primarily, the Chorley laboratory currently supports forces in North West—GMP, Merseyside, Cumbria, Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales—along with the Isle of Man and Staffordshire.

Hooliganism: Football

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance his Department is providing to the organisers of the Euro 2012 football tournament in Poland and Ukraine on safety and security issues. [292517]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There is close liaison with governmental, policing and other authorities in Poland and Ukraine. Home Office is supporting the host authorities in developing an integrated safety and security strategy for the Euro 2012 football tournament. This work is being pursued in partnership with the UEFA and the pan-European group of football safety and security experts which the Home Office chairs.

Identity Cards: Finance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to Baroness Hanham of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA35, on identity cards, what payments have been made to external marketing communications or public relations firms in respect of communications on identity cards. [288883]

Mr. Woolas: In the financial year 2008-2009 payments of £62,000 were made to marketing communication agencies for public information activities to ensure businesses were aware of the Identity Card for Foreign Nationals when it was introduced in November 2008. These costs were shared by the Identity and Passport Service, UK Borders Agency and the Home Office.

In the financial year 2009-10 payments of £464,314 have been made to marketing communication agencies by the Identity and Passport Service in preparation for the launch of the Identity Card and Identification Card for UK citizens in Greater Manchester and for airside workers later this year. These payments contribute towards the cost of a public information campaign targeted at businesses and consumers.

No payments have been made to public relations firms in respect of communications on identity cards during either 2008-2009 or to date during 2009-2010.

Immigrants: Young Offender Institutions

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people at each young offender institution who were detained beyond their sentence expiry date as a consequence of unresolved immigration issues there were in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [292952]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* Detention beyond sentence for foreign national offenders under the age of 18 is maintained only under my authorisation and in consultation with various sources of expertise, including the Office of the Children's Champion and Children's Services. Detention of child offenders is a last resort and all relevant matters are taken into account when considering their welfare.

Information on the number of foreign nationals held beyond their sentence specifically in each young offender institution can be obtained only by examining each individual record at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Justice latest published figures for the foreign national prisoner population as at 30 June 2009 on their website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

Offensive Weapons: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the adequacy of the provisions of current legislation in reducing the number of offences related to the possession of a knife; and what recent steps his Department has taken to increase the levels of awareness of these provisions by *(a)* the police and *(b)* local communities. [287722]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* Through the Tackling Knives Action Programme we examined legislation which resulted in an increase in the maximum penalty for possession of an offensive knife/weapon in a public place from two years to four years. We have also made it clear that anyone aged 16 or over should be prosecuted at their first offence. In addition, in phase 1 of the programme we have funded TKAP-police forces increased use of stop and search powers (under section 1 of Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994) to recover weapons, we have increased the minimum age to be sold a knife from 16 to 18, created a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon and made it an aggravating factor if the person used is a child. This is having an effect—more people are going to jail for carrying knives and they are getting longer sentences.

In order to increase levels of awareness of the provisions available, on 22 July the Government hosted a Tackling Knives Action Programme/Youth Crime Action Plan One Year On Conference, which brought together ACPO representatives, frontline local agencies, community representatives, third sector stakeholders and young people. To further raise awareness, the Home Office will soon publish a tackling knives good practice guide.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have received funding from his Department under the Tackling Knives Action Programme; and how much was allocated in each case. [288337]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* In June the Government announced that more than 150 organisations will receive £2.3 million in 2009-10 to tackle knife crime, serious youth violence and support the victims of violent crime through the Community Fund, Youth Sector Development Fund and Victims' Fund.

The Victims' Fund (Homicide) allocated £334,000 between six organisations that support the families and friends of victims of homicide:

	£
Mothers Against Murder and Aggression	75,000
Winston's Wish (an organisation targeting bereaved children)	47,000
National Victims Association (chaired by David Hines)	74,000
Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse	35,000
Damilola Taylor Trust	75,000
Support After Murder and Manslaughter Merseyside	28,000

Details of other successful third sector organizations in receipt of Home Office funding are available in the following link:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/funding/funding013.htm

Police: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the aim of the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Grant is; how much Government funding has been *(a)* distributed to and *(b)* spent by each local authority in each year since their inception; and how much he expects to be spent in each of the next two years. [292419]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The aim of the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice (NCJ) grant is to help improve public confidence in how crime is tackled and justice delivered across England and Wales. This is targeted through a network of 60 Neighbourhood Crime and Justice 'Pioneer Areas'—60 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). Funding is paid out retrospectively against approved spend. Local programmes of work commenced between October 2008 and March 2009.

The following table shows the 2008-09 approved claims for funding by area and the amounts that areas can spend up to in 2009-10.

Areas	*2008-09 Claimed*	*2009-10 Allocation*
Barking and Dagenham	50,000	70,000
Barnsley	50,000	70,000
Birmingham	49,963	75,000
Blackburn with Darwen	31,670	70,000
Blackpool	50,000	70,000
Bolton	60,000	75,000
Bradford	29,889	75,000
Brent	60,000	75,000
Bristol	59,934	75,000
Caerphilly	25,000	70,000
Camden	25,674	70,000
Cardiff	2,408	75,000
Doncaster	60,000	75,000
Gateshead	0	45,000
Greenwich	34,133	70,000
Hackney	13,498	70,000
Halton	0	70,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	40,000	70,000
Haringey	8,516	70,000
Islington	31,895	70,000
Kingston upon Hull	50,000	70,000
Kirklees	0	75,000
Knowsley	41,005	70,000
Lambeth	49,816	75,000
Leicester	59,319	75,000
Lewisham	7,054	70,000
Liverpool	60,000	75,000
Luton	50,000	70,000
Manchester	46,959	75,000
Middlesbrough	50,000	70,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	60,000	75,000
Newham	25,000	70,000
Newport	37,414	70,000
North East Lincolnshire	28,231	70,000
Northampton	28,640	70,000
Nottingham	57,492	75,000
Nuneaton and Bedworth	35,000	0
Oldham	25,000	70,000
Peterborough	20,136	70,000
Preston	36,304	70,000
Redcar and Cleveland	45,685	70,000
Rochdale	35,000	70,000
Rotherham	34,063	70,000
Salford	42,627	70,000
Sandwell	59,039	75,000
Sefton	0	75,000
Sheffield	4,427	75,000
Slough	50,000	70,000
South Tyneside	50,000	70,000
Southampton	32,404	70,000
St Helens	50,000	70,000
Stoke-on-Trent	28,968	70,000
Sunderland	45,000	75,000
Swansea	23,654	70,000
Tameside	32,223	70,000
Thanet	50,000	70,000
Tower Hamlets	40,430	70,000
Wakefield	59,699	75,000
Walsall	13,127	75,000
Waltham Forest	1,940	70,000
Wolverhampton	43,313	70,000
Total	2,191,548	4,275,000

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what categories of expenditure are covered by the neighbourhood crime and justice grants funding; how many neighbourhood crime and justice co-ordinators are funded by the grant; what the average salary cost of a neighbourhood crime and justice co-ordinator is; what the official duties of neighbourhood crime and justice co-ordinators are; and what the average number of contracted hours of such co-ordinators are. [292420]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office expenditure covers funding for the employment of Neighbourhood Crime and Justice (NCJ) coordinators and supplementary spend against three evidence-based priorities to improve public confidence in how crime is tackled and justice delivered. These priorities are to

> raise awareness and understanding of the public's entitlements from the police and other criminal justice agencies;
>
> ensure that public services are taking action on the crime and antisocial behaviour issues that are local priorities for the public;
>
> help demonstrate to the public that there are consequences for those who break the law.

The NCJ grant provides funding for co-ordinators in 60 NCJ "Pioneer Areas". These are 60 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) which were invited to become Pioneer Areas based on a range of indicators, including public perceptions of antisocial behaviour and confidence in local services, deprivation levels and population size.

The specific official duties and terms and conditions of NCJ co-ordinators will vary according to the prevailing arrangements within each Pioneer Area. Information on average salaries and hours is not held centrally. They are directly employed by, and therefore responsible to, one of the organisations that comprise the local CDRP, typically the local authority.

Police: Football

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with police forces on the effects of the compensation paid to football supporters on the application of section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. [291593]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office has had discussions on the use of section 27 powers in policing football operations with the ACPO lead on football matters. This provision is one of a number of operational tools available to chief police officers. This is a matter for local chief officers. Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 makes clear that the powers should be used in a proportionate and appropriate manner.

Racial Hatred: Football

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of racist abuse relating to football matches police forces in England and Wales received during the 2008-09 football season. [292042]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Levels of racist behaviour in connection with football matches in England and Wales is extremely low. During the football season 2008-09, over 36 million spectators attended over 3,100 competitive and friendly matches. In total, local police recorded 64 incidents of "hate crime" inside and outside of football stadia. This categorisation of hate crime includes racist and homophobic chanting or behaviour, incidents involving ethnic minority fans or local residents, the distribution of racist material, and other racist or extreme right wing activity. The incidents recorded usually involved individuals as opposed to groups of fans.

A great deal has been achieved over the past decade in terms of preventing and tackling racism in connection with football. All of the agencies involved in football safety and security, including supporter groups, are committed to working together to combat hate crime, including racism. The law makes clear that the courts should consider imposing a football banning order on any person convicted of racist chanting or other racially aggravated offences committed in connection with football.

Road Traffic Offences: M4

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought for illegal use of the M4 bus and taxi lane since the lane was established. [293133]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not collected centrally. Court proceedings data held by the Ministry of Justice do not separately identify offences of illegal use of bus lanes (under Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Regulation 10 of the Traffic Signs and General Directions Regulations 2002) from other offences of neglect of traffic directions. Nor is the location of such offences recorded.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to monitor compliance with the terms of use of the M4 bus lane. [293134]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The police can deal with illegal use of the bus lane by giving an oral or written warning, the issue of a £60 fixed penalty notice or by proceeding to prosecution. Metropolitan Police traffic officers are regularly deployed on that section of the M4 which includes the bus lane. Any police officer who witnesses an offence taking place there will take whatever action is appropriate in the circumstances. In addition, the Metropolitan Police are working in partnership with the Highways Agency and Transport for London to devise medium and long term solutions in relation to the lane's use and safety.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288957]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The commission recently published its final report, which can be found at:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A steering group has been established under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Students: Immigration

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students from colleges not on the Register of Education and Training Providers have applied for permanent residence in the UK in each of the last five years. [292796]

Mr. Woolas: The student category does not lead to settlement and information is not available as to how many migrants who have been granted settlement were previously here as students.

Stun Guns: Children

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what safety assessment his Department has conducted on the use of taser guns and attenuating energy projectiles in relation to children; and if he will make a statement. [291937]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office Scientific Development Branch have produced three reports evaluating Taser devices. We have also submitted the use of Taser according to Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance to an independent group of medical advisers—DOMILL (Defence Scientific Advisory Council (DSAC) Sub-committee on the Medical Implications of Less-lethal Weapons).

DOMILL has issued five statements on the medical implications of the use of the Taser. Its view is that the risk of death or serious injury from the use of Tasers within ACPO Guidance and Policy is very low. The fourth DOMILL statement identified children and adults of smaller stature as being at potentially greater risk from the cardiac effects of Taser currents than normal adults of average or large stature. The ACPO guidance to officers highlights this point.

ACPO guidance on the use of Attenuated Energy Projectile (AEP) states that every effort should be made to ensure that children are not placed at risk by the firing of baton rounds in public order situations. The guidance is also clear that deployment of AEP in a public order situation must be restricted to use against clearly identified individuals who are presenting a threat which must be countered.

Medical evaluation of the AEP by DOMILL concluded that the risk of serious and life-threatening injury to the head is less than that from its predecessor the L21A1 Baton Round, which already had a low risk of such injury.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers his Department employs overseas to screen passengers of inbound flights to the United Kingdom at airports *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the EU. [292932]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The UK Border Agency's Risk and Liaison Overseas Network (RALON) currently employs 98 staff designated as Immigration Liaison Managers and Officers overseas, 14 within the EU and 84 in non-EU locations.

One of RALON's core functions is to support carriers at airports to identify those without correct documentation from seeking to travel to the UK.

RALON staff only operate at airports in an advisory capacity, achieved through the provision of training and expertise to airlines in UK passport and visa requirements and forgery awareness, to assist them to prevent inadequately documented passengers from boarding. RALON staff have no legal powers overseas and the decision on whether to carry a passenger is always made by the airline.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations local authorities have to provide sufficient allotment sites to meet demand. [292706]

Barbara Follett: Under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908 there is a duty on local authorities to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area. Where an allotments authority is of the opinion that there is a demand for allotments in its area, section 23 of the 1908 Act puts the authority under a duty to provide a sufficient number of allotments and to let them to persons residing in its area who want them.

Legislation does not lay down minimum standards or a required nature or extent of allotment garden provision. The Government consider it appropriate that each local authority should decide for itself what proportion of its resources to devote to these purposes. Allotment authorities therefore have room to exercise discretion about the level of and time scale for provision of allotment gardens and facilities on site.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average waiting time for an applicant to secure a local authority allotment. [292730]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities are responsible for keeping and managing waiting lists for allotments they provide. Government do not require local authorities to provide data on the average waiting time for an applicant to secure a local authority allotment.

Audit Commission: Pay

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* members of his Department's board have had with the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission on the consolidated pay rise for the Commission's senior management that followed the cancellation in June of the optional bonus scheme; and if he will make a statement. [292181]

Barbara Follett: There have been no such discussions between CLG Ministers or CLG board members.

Building Regulations: Energy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contraventions of Part L of the Building Regulations have taken place in each year since 2000; how many of them were resolved before project completion; and how many of the contraventions which were left unresolved before project completion resulted in prosecution. [292140]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1830W.

Council Housing

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new council homes have been built in England in each year since 1997; and at what cost in each such year. [293141]

Mr. Ian Austin: Figures showing how many new council (local authority) homes have been built in England in each year since 1997 were released in Live Table 244 on the CLG website in August 2009. These include total house building completions by tenure, including local authority completions at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140912.xls

Estimates on the cost of local authority house building activity is not held centrally.

Council Tax: Appeals

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report,* columns 308-9W, on council tax: appeals, what information his Department holds on the *(a)* number of council tax appeals decided and *(b)* decisions relating to each such case in (a) 2004-05 and (b) 2005-06. [292976]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Tribunal Service (VTS) does not hold information on the number of council tax appeals decided in 2004-05 or 2005-06. There are no statistical data for those decisions and to provide the data would incur disproportionate cost, but all the individual decisions are available for inspection in the VTS' offices and many of the decisions appear on their website:

www.valuationtribunal.gov.uk

Councillors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 July 2009, *Official Report,* columns 309-11W, on councillors, what mechanisms he uses to assess the implementation by political parties of the recommendations of the Councillors Commission report. [292975]

Barbara Follett: The Government are not monitoring the political parties' implementation of the recommendations of the Councillors Commission report. We are however supporting the Leadership Centre for Local Government to work with the political parties on the "21st Century Councillors" programme and the national roll-out of the "Be A Councillor" campaign, both of which take forward the Councillors Commission agenda.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on sending a written acknowledgement, including a case reference number, on receipt of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [292882]

Barbara Follett: It is the policy of this Department to send acknowledgements of all Freedom of Information requests received within seven days of receipt in the Department except where it is possible to provide a substantive response within that time or shortly thereafter.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 234W, on departmental furniture, which *(a)* offices and *(b)* individuals received each (i) Dean and (ii) Hay model of the Herman Miller chair. [292987]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government purchased the Dean and Hay model of chairs for use in general areas of Eland House, not for individual staff. These chairs were purchased through Herman Miller, but manufactured by Orangebox.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 234W, on departmental furniture, how many Herman Miller chairs were ordered by the Department in 2008-09; and what the *(a)* model and *(b)* cost, including value added tax, was of each. [292988]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government did not order any chairs manufactured by Herman Miller in 2008-09.

Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwellings were owned by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* registered social landlords and *(c)* others in each of the last three years. [292814]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows estimates of the number of empty dwellings owned by local authorities, registered social landlords and in the private sector in England in each of the last three years.

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Local authority	42,870	40,960	36,940
Registered social landlords	30,170	30,770	29,240
Private enterprise	675,120	691,590	717,840
Total number of vacants	748,160	763,320	784,020

Sources:

Total vacants: Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities for October 2006-2008.

Local authority: Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities for1 April 2006-2008; RSL: Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords for31 March 2006-2008.

Total vacant dwellings reported by local authorities through Council Taxbase returns include long term and short term empty dwellings.

Figures for Registered Social Landlords are for self-contained general needs units only.

Vacant private enterprise dwellings are estimated by subtracting RSL and local authority vacant dwellings from the total number of vacant dwellings.

SpaceFlex

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the SpaceFlex initiative in his Department; and how much has been spent on consultancy services associated with the initiative. [292727]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government has spent £4,685,000 on the SpaceFlex initiative, of which £1,045,000 has been spent on consultancy services.

The SpaceFlex initiative moves Communities and Local Government staff from two buildings into one, enabling savings of £4.5 million per annum on reduced operating costs.

Housing: Carbon Monoxide

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce the outcome of his review of part J of the Building Regulations in respect of the provision of carbon monoxide detectors. [291938]

Mr. Ian Austin: The part J consultation commenced on 3 September and is due to close on 26 November. The provision of carbon monoxide detectors is just one aspect being considered as part of this consultation. We expect to announce the outcome of this review in April 2010, six months before coming into effect.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much housing revenue has been transferred from each local housing authority to central government in each of the last three years; and what methodology his Department uses to redistribute such funds to local authorities. [292918]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2006W.

The methodology employed for establishing subsidy payments to, and receipts due, from local authorities is set out in detail within the HRA Manual, which is available on the Communities and Local Government website, and annual Determinations issued by the Department. Each local authority's guideline rental income and estimated need to spend on their properties are calculated on the basis of data supplied by the authorities. The results of these calculations are published by the Department annually in the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination. Payments to or from the Exchequer are made in 10 instalments through the year.

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has conducted an impact assessment of the Government's commitment to build all publicly-funded homes to the Lifetime Homes Standard from 2011. [292455]

Mr. Ian Austin: In June 2007 the Department published a consultation on Making a Rating Mandatory within the Code for Sustainable Homes. This included an impact assessment which took account of the public sector commitment to build to Lifetime Homes Standards from 2011. The document can be downloaded at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/doc/Thefutureofthecode.doc

We will be consulting on proposed changes to the code for Sustainable Homes in due course, and this will include our proposal to make Lifetime Homes Standards mandatory at Code Level 4. The consultation will be supported by a full impact assessment.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the requirements for compliance with the Lifetime Homes Standard are. [292462]

Mr. Ian Austin: Some elements of the Lifetime Homes Standard are already included in Part M (Access to and use of buildings) of the Building Regulations, including features such as level or gently sloping approach to the property, level entrance threshold, accessible heights for switches and controls, and accessible requirements for common areas of communal dwellings. Compliance with these elements is assessed through Local Authority Building Control or Government Approved Inspectors.

The Lifetime Homes Standard is also included within the Health and Wellbeing category of the Code for Sustainable Homes where it is mandatory for properties at Code Level 6 (though not currently at lower code levels). Since May 2008 all new homes are required to be rated under the code, though a developer may choose to sign a free 'nil rated' certificate if they wish only to build to current Building Regulations rather than higher levels of the code.

We will be consulting later this year on our proposals to make Lifetime Homes Standards Mandatory at Code level 4 from 2010. Assessing compliance with the Code for Sustainable Homes is undertaken by registered Code Assessors.

In some instances local planning authorities also require new housing to deliver varying levels of compliance with the Lifetime Homes Standard through the planning system.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1924-7W, to the hon. Member for Ludlow of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2131-2W, and to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2212-4W, on housing valuation, how many properties are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code, including each individual (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of floors, (v) floor level, (vi) parking, (vii) garaging, (viii) conservatory type, (ix) age, (x) outbuilding and (xi) modernisation code in the local authority area of Basingstoke, according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292321]

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1924-7W, to the hon. Member for Ludlow of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2131-2W, and to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2212-4W, on housing valuation, how many properties in each London borough are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code, including each individual (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency; and if he will make a statement. [292320]

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in Huntingdonshire district are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code, including each individual (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292179]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwellinghouse code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Land Use: South East

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the amount of undeveloped land appropriate for housing owned by those local authorities in the South East which have indicated they have insufficient housing supply. [292532]

Mr. Ian Austin: Approximately 3,238 hectares of public land exists in the South East, based on a September 2009 estimate. This consists of a mixture of projects under construction and land that will come forward at different times. It will not all be suitable for housing. The figure is for all public sector bodies generally—not just local planning authorities.

Looking After Our Town Centres

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Independent Retailers' Association's submission to his Department's review, Looking after our town centres. [292886]

Barbara Follett: "Looking after our Town Centres" was a joint CLG/DCMS guide which sets out ways in which local authorities can promote alternative uses for vacant shops in town centres, and other ideas for boosting high streets. It brings together existing guidance; highlights practical approaches and explains additional steps the Government are taking to help town centres. We did not invite submissions when preparing the guide, and the Independent Retailers' Association have not contacted us about it. However, we continue to discuss issues affecting town centres with a wide range of stakeholders.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what remuneration each of the board members of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit received in each of the last three years. [292353]

Mr. Ian Austin: The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit's Board were appointed in November 2006 to oversee and steer the unit's work programme, and help deliver its objective to provide an evidence base for advice on improving housing supply and affordability. They bring an independent and expert view to the housing supply debate, based on their wide range of expertise in housing and economics. This shapes the unit's work and outputs, such as its advice on housing supply numbers to be tested in the planning process, and its research programme.

Board members are entitled to claim the following remuneration for their NHPAU activities:

Chair: £468.00 per day up to a maximum of 2.5 days per month;

Other Board members (x 5): £350 per day up to a maximum of 2.5 days per month.

However, the total remuneration amounts paid to Board members over each of the three years was considerably less than their entitlement:

November 2006 to March 2007: £9,047

Each Board member claimed between £0 and £2,450 during this period

April 2007 to March 2008:: £26,972

Each Board member claimed between £0 and £7,722 during this period

April 2008 to March 2009: £30,991

Each Board member claimed between £2800 and £8,750 during this period

April 2009 to July 2009: £8,701

Each Board member has claimed between £0 and £3,276 during this period.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what reference number format is used by the Valuation Office Agency to describe different sub-locations for non-domestic rates purposes. [292629]

Barbara Follett: A simple unique alpha-numeric code, which acts as a label for a particular category of property having similar characteristics.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what directions have been issued to date by the Secretary of State, pursuant to Part 1 section 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, in re-designating the regional planning bodies in each Government Office region outside London; and what the *(a)* old and *(b)* new designated organisations are in each case. [292547]

Mr. Ian Austin: The table shows the directions that have been made in respect of the designation of recent regional planning bodies.

Previous regional planning body name	*New regional planning body name*	*Date direction came into effect*
North West Regional Assembly	North West regional Leaders' Forum	14 July 2008
South East England Regional Assembly	South East England Partnership Board	[1]1 April 2009
North East Assembly	North East Planning Body	1 April 2009
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly	Yorkshire and Humber Joint Regional Board	1 April 2009
South West Regional Assembly	South West Strategic Leaders' Board	8 May 2009

[1] Revised due to change in membership 20 July 2009

Positive Futures Programme

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the aim of the Positive Futures Programme is; how much funding was *(a)* distributed to local authorities via the Programme by (i) his Department and (ii) each other contributing partner and *(b)* subsequently spent by local authorities by local authority in each year since the Programme began; and what estimate he has made of the amount of such funding to be provided in the next two years. [292413]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Positive Futures programme aims to prevent young people from becoming involved in substance misuse, crime and antisocial behaviour by engaging them in activities and support them in accessing education, training, employment and volunteering opportunities.

Total Home Office expenditure on the Positive Futures programmes is as follows:

	Expenditure	£
2004-05	outturn expenditure	6,240,990
2005-06	outturn expenditure	5,812,928
2006-07	outturn expenditure	5,832,101
2007-08	outturn expenditure	6,007,641
2008-09	outturn expenditure	5,988,469
2009-10	budget	5,999,000

Source:
Home Office Accounting System

Expenditure from previous years, funding from contributing partners and breakdown by local authority is not available without disproportionate cost.

The indicative budget allocation for 2010-11 is £5,999,000. Budget allocations for 2011-12 have yet to be determined.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what categories of project the Positive Futures Programme budget has been spent on; how many people have received assistance from the scheme; what the drop-out rate has been in each year since the Programme began; and what drop-out rate is predicted for the next two years. [292414]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Positive Futures programme has provided grant funding to projects to work with 10 to 19-year-olds and deliver sports activities, physical activities, arts and performance activities and educational and advice sessions. Spend is not broken down by category of project. Consistent and comparable figures are only available from 2006-07 onwards and data shows that the total number of participants in contact with the programme from October 2006 to March 2008 was 71,062. The latest data on numbers of participants for 2008-09 is expected to be published in December 2009.

Positive Futures is an open access early intervention programme and does not have specified start and end points. Participants do not therefore drop out but do engage with the programme for different periods achieving a variety of qualifications and outcomes through their period of engagement. In 2007-08, 64.5 per cent. of participants recorded engagement levels were in a positive direction (which included gaining qualifications or employment) compared to 58 per cent. in 2006-07. Data on engagement levels for 2008-09 is expected to be published in December 2009. No prediction on engagement levels for the next two years is available.

Public Land Initiative

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations attended the event hosted by the Homes and Communities Agency of 21 July 2009 on the proposed Public Land Initiative; and when he expects to announce the approved delivery partners for that initiative. [293386]

John Healey: The Public Land Initiative (PLI) was started in June this year as part of the Prime Minister's Housing Pledge. It will produce 1,250 new homes, including around 500 affordable homes, on a small number of sites owned by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). This is an important new initiative, not just because it will create much needed new homes, but because it is testing out a different approach to procurement and delivery.

The interest from industry has been significant. 152 organisations attended a seminar organised by the HCA in July before the formal procurement started. This event attracted people from across the sector, including traditional housebuilders, construction and development firms, and registered social landlords. I have placed a full list of companies attending this seminar in the House of Commons Library.

In December I will announce final decisions on the firms that make the panel as direct delivery partners, and the allocated sites. I expect the first builders on site by April and the first 50 of the new homes finished within a year of that.

Radicalism

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on changing the level of priority accorded to tackling *(a)* violent extremism, *(b)* extremism perpetrated in the name of Islam, *(c)* extremism perpetrated in the name of neo-nazi and fascist causes and *(d)* extremism claimed by others; and if he will make a statement. [293389]

Mr. Malik: We are clear that the threat from al-Qaeda influenced extremism remains the most significant terrorist threat to the UK, although we have recently been able to downgrade the official threat level from 'severe' (an attack is highly likely) to 'substantial' (an attack is a strong possibility).

We are working to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a safe, prosperous and healthy community and are determined to support communities by increasing their capacity to tackle the philosophy or practice of violence in their own communities. A number of related but distinct programmes contribute to this, including promoting community cohesion, preventing violent extremism and tackling hate crime and other forms of extremism.

The level of priority accorded to different types of extremism will depend on the level of the problem in the local area. We are also seeking to work to eradicate the risk of far-right violent extremism. Our objective is to attempt to impact on extremist ideologies that threaten our communities irrespective of their source and origin.

Ministers and officials have frequent formal and informal contact with communities and local authorities where issues and concerns presented by different forms of extremism are discussed. We do not record the number of these representations.

Regional Government: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 398W, on regional assemblies, what the estimated total revenue cost is of the Regional Assemblies and their successor bodies, including local authority funding. [292860]

Mr. Ian Austin: The estimated total revenue cost for Regional Assemblies and their successor bodies for 2009-10 provided by Central Government remains at £18 million. Local authorities may also provide funding for activities but details of these are not held centrally.

Shops: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities have received funding from his Department's empty shop revival fund; [292747]

(2) with reference to his Department's press release of 13 August 2009, on the empty shops revival fund, whether local authorities are required to specify how they will spend their allocation before they receive a grant from the fund. [293022]

Barbara Follett: The following table lists the 57 local authorities that have each received £52,631.58 to help them promote alternative uses for vacant shops in town centres, and other ideas for boosting high streets. This is new funding for 2009-10 only, which forms part of the package of support that CLG is providing to boost town centres and high streets, as set out in "Looking after our Town Centres", which we published with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in April.

We allocated this funding to local authorities showing high levels of deprivation and high shop vacancy rates. There was no bidding process. In accordance with the Government's policy on local authority funding, this is unringfenced grant and councils are not required to inform CLG how they intend to spend this funding. However, we wrote to all local authorities receiving the grant, highlighting some of the ideas and approaches that councils are already taking to boost their high streets and other support available.

Local authorities receiving empty shops funding

Ashfield
Barnsley
Barrow-in-Furness
Birmingham
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Bolton
Boston
Bristol
Burnley
Copeland
Corby
Coventry
Darlington
Derby City
Doncaster
Dudley
Durham
Gateshead
Great Yarmouth
Hackney
Halton
Harlow
Hartlepool
Hastings
Hyndburn
Ipswich
Kingston Upon Hull
Kirklees
Knowsley
Leeds
Leicester City
Liverpool
Manchester
Mansfield
Middlesbrough
Newcastle upon Tyne
North East Lincolnshire
North Tyneside
Nottingham City
Pendle
Preston
Rochdale
Rossendale
Rotherham
Salford
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
South Tyneside
Stoke-on-Trent
Sunderland
Tameside
Thanet
Walsall
Wigan
Wolverhampton

Social Rented Housing

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to ensure that rent increases for housing association tenants in England are affordable. [293142]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Tenant Services Authority regulates registered social landlords (RSLs) in England to ensure that they provide decent homes and services for tenants. To protect tenants, TSA regulation places a limit on the maximum amount by which rents can rise each year. This limit is linked to the retail price index (RPI) as at the previous September. Rent can be increased by a maximum of RPI plus 0.5 per cent., plus £2 per week for rents that are below target levels.

In July, as part of a consultation on draft directions to the TSA, the Government published proposals relating to the regulation of RSL rents after 1 April 2010. The consultation paper is available via the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/tsadirections

The Department intends to publish the final directions shortly.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in discussions with the Tenant Services Authority on future rent restructuring to replace the current guideline limit; and if he will make a statement. [293143]

Mr. Ian Austin: In July, as part of a consultation on draft directions to the Tenant Services Authority, the Government published proposals relating to the regulation of rents set by registered social landlords after 1 April 2010. These proposals are based on a continuation of the rent restructuring policy set out in the document "Guide to Social Rent Reforms" which was published by the Government in March 2001. The consultation paper is available via the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/tsadirections

The Department intends to publish the final directions shortly.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing associations in England have increased rents by the full guideline limit in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available. [293144]

Mr. Ian Austin: The TSA annually collects (through the RSR form) details of the average actual rent and target rent, for each local authority area by bed size for each housing association with more than 1,000 homes. Because of the impact of new properties being developed each year and the option to re-let properties at target rent, it is not possible to tell from this data whether the landlord has applied the full allowable rent increase.

Using this data, the TSA monitors the convergence of actual rents to target rents and looks to identify evidence of rents increasing too quickly (or falling too slowly). Where this happens, the TSA's field teams will discuss the issue with the landlord concerned and carry out any necessary investigations.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing units have been built in each of the last 10 years; what the cost *(a)* in total and *(b)* per unit was in each such year; how many such units are planned to be built in each of the next five years; what the estimated cost (i) in total and (ii) per unit is in each of those years; and how many households were on a housing waiting list for (A) local authority housing and (B) housing association housing (1) in each of the last 10 years and (2) on the latest date for which information is available. [292136]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* We have published on the Communities and Local Government website tables showing affordable housing completions from 1991-92 for both new build and acquisition.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1000.xls

The following table shows the total expenditure through the Affordable Housing Programme over the years 1999-2000 to 2008-09 together with the average grant per unit for each year.

Allocation year	*Total AHP expenditure (capital) (£ million)*	*Allocation cost per unit*
1999-2000	815	28,454
2000-01	830	36,697
2001-02	823	47,640
2002-03	1,030	56,874
2003-04	1,805	62,988
2004-05	1,624	63,639
2005-06	1,598	54,556
2006-07	1,923	60,588
2007-08	2,004	59,729
2008-09 (provisional)	2,625	65,773

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency

As set out in the Homes and Communities Agency's Corporate Plan we are expecting to invest £3,248 million and £2,480 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively through the Affordable Housing Programme. Schemes bid for grant on a competitive basis. The HCA receive bids on a continuous basis and assess them against set criteria including value for money, as a result grant per unit for any year is not available until after year end.

The number of households registered on local authority housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year from 1997 to 2008, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

Social Rented Housing: Finance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what capital funding his Department has provided for social housing in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [291543]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following tables show the funding provided through the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme for social rent and low cost home ownership in South Tyneside local authority, the North East Region, and England in each year since 1997.

Affordable Housing Programme expenditure in South Tyneside

£ million

	Social rent	*LCHO*	*Total social rent and LCHO*
1997-98	0.65	0.35	1.00
1998-99	0.91	0.13	1.04
1999-2000	1.24	0.42	1.66
2000-01	0.59	0.11	0.70
2001-02	0.97	0.13	1.10
2002-03	2.44	0.12	2.56
2003-04	4.23	0.11	4.34
2004-05	1.44	0.07	1.51
2005-06	3.87	0.05	3.92
2006-07	2.64	0	2.64
2007-08	1.57	0	1.57
2008-09	1.52	0.03	1.55

Affordable Housing Programme expenditure in North East Region

£ million

	Social rent	*LCHO*	*Total social rent and LCHO*
1997-98	17.29	4.46	21.75
1998-99	15.45	2.57	18.02
1999-2000	15.71	1.56	17.27
2000-01	15.81	1.58	17.39
2001-02	18.65	1.36	20.01
2002-03	19.6	0.84	20.44
2003-04	34.94	2.07	37.01
2004-05	35.37	1.75	37.12
2005-06	31.94	2.55	34.49
2006-07	38.66	3.13	41.79
2007-08	33.53	2.55	36.08
2008-09	52.53	4.87	57.40

Affordable Housing Programme expenditure in England

£ million

	Social rent	*LCHO*	*Total social rent and LCHO*
1997-98	456.47	159.29	615.76
1998-99	446.51	115.75	562.26
1999-2000	522.79	79.31	602.10
2000-01	575.66	97.22	672.88
2001-02	646.53	87.51	734.04
2002-03	760.23	119.91	880.14
2003-04	1,171.00	366.58	1,537.58
2004-05	1,050.04	512.19	1,562.23
2005-06	933.19	585.65	1,518.84
2006-07	1,432.55	443.44	1,875.99
2007-08	1,552.32	427.44	1,979.76
2008-09	2,038.13	551.29	2,589.42

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS) Information on funding for affordable housing is not available by constituency.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Lapis Lazuli

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's efforts to promote economic development in Afghanistan have included steps to support exploitation for trade purposes of its lapis lazuli resources. [293218]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) committed almost £4.2 million to a four-year programme (2004-08) aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of the Afghanistan Geological Survey and establishing a viable minerals industry (including Lapis Lazuli). Further information about this programme is available from:

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/AfghanMinerals/Index.htm

DFID is also working to improve the wider conditions for trade and investment by supporting Harakat (formerly the Afghanistan Investment Climate Facility). Further information on Harakat is available from

http://www.harakat.af

Departmental Information Officers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many press officers his Department employs. [290330]

Mr. Michael Foster: The White Book, published by the Central Office of Information (COI) every six months, contains details of the Department for International Development's press team.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289967]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively, and all spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

I also refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Office annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list was published on 16 July 2009 and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK bilateral aid he plans to allocate to each of the five fragile states identified in his new aid programme for job creation. [289926]

Mr. Michael Foster: As announced in DFID's 2009 Annual Report, the total planned expenditure by DFID in the next two years of the current comprehensive spending review (CSR) period in each of the five fragile states we identified earlier is as follows:

		£ million
	2009-10	*2010-11*
Afghanistan	123.5	123
Nepal	46	56
Yemen	35	50
Nigeria	120	140
Ethiopia	202	196

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many jobs he expects to be created in *(a)* Nigeria, *(b)* Afghanistan, *(c)* Nepal, *(d)* Yemen and *(e)* Ethiopia by 2013 under his new bilateral aid programme for job creation. [289929]

Mr. Michael Foster: We plan to create up to 1.25 million new economic opportunities across post-conflict and fragile countries in which we work by 2013. These include the five countries that were initially identified: Nepal, Ethiopia, Yemen, Nigeria and Afghanistan. Exact targets for individual countries have not yet been finalised.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what partners his Department has appointed to deliver his Department's bilateral aid programme for job creation in each of the five fragile states identified in that programme. [289932]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has many programmes in fragile states that deliver job creation. These work with a wide range of partners. We will meet our targets for job creation by expanding existing programmes and by establishing new activities where relevant. Partner selection will depend on specific contexts and will involve partner governments, the private sector and NGOs.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of bilateral aid allocated to the five fragile states identified in his Department's new programme for job creation will be delivered to the national exchequers of those five states. [289934]

Mr. Michael Foster: We are currently planning how to scale-up our job creation programmes but it is not possible at this stage to say what proportion will be disbursed through national exchequers.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which country received the largest allocation of funding support from his Department in 2009; which country is expected to receive the largest such allocation in 2010; and for what specific purposes in each case. [292776]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development allocated the largest share of bilateral funding to the India country programme in the 2009-10 financial year (£275 million). We estimate that India will also receive the largest allocation of funding in 2010-11.

DFID's support is focused on assisting the Government of India to improve the impact its public policies and services have on reducing poverty. It works in the following main areas: education; health and nutrition; inclusive growth; governance reform; rural and urban development; the management of natural resources; and the empowerment of the poor, especially women and other marginalised groups in Indian society. More detailed information on our programme in India is available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Security

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure his Department has incurred on engaging private security companies and private military companies for work undertaken in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last three years. [291781]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses the services of private security companies managed and administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. DFID's share of these is as follows. We do not contract with private military companies.

		£ million
	Iraq	*Afghanistan*
2006-07	6.1	1.8
2007-08	5.0	2.3
2008-09	5.5	2.3

HEALTH

Arthritis: General Practitioners

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that GPs have greater awareness of rheumatoid arthritis to enable earlier identification of the disease. [292772]

Ann Keen: The Department has published a good practice commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis which supports clinicians in identifying cases of rheumatoid arthritis and ensuring that they are set on the right pathway of care. This describes key symptoms, for example where patients should be referred for urgent treatment.

General practitioners can also use the Map of Medicine to determine the best possible treatment options for their patients, including information on the various patterns of onset, diagnostic tests and medical treatment of rheumatoid arthritis[1].

The Department has not made any specific assessment of access to or quality of care services for people with rheumatoid arthritis.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts as commissioners of healthcare services to ensure that their populations have access to the services that they require.

The Department has published a good practice commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis. All 18 weeks commissioning pathways provide information to illustrate what services should be commissioned and provided in different levels of care. The guidance recommends that information is given to patients to help them understand and self-manage their condition at different stages of the treatment pathway.

"Your health, your way—a guide to long term conditions and self care" provides people living with long-term conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, with information about the choices that should be available to them locally to enable them to self care in partnership with health and social care professionals.

NHS Choices also provides a wealth of information to assist patients in recognising the symptoms of a variety of conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis. The national health service guide to rheumatoid arthritis features information on the warning signs and symptoms of the condition and streaming of a rheumatologist outlining symptoms, treatment and aspects of living with the rheumatoid arthritis.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that GPs make information on rheumatoid arthritis available to the public. [292724]

Ann Keen: The central focus of Your health, your way—a guide to long term conditions and self care is to promote discussion between health and social care professionals and individuals with long term conditions about what options there are for self care and what support and information is available to help improve the way they manage their own health and well-being.

The Department is also developing the Information Prescriptions programme which aims to empower people with long-term conditions and their carers by giving them information to help them better manage their condition and care.

Information Prescriptions can be created through NHS Choices for a number of long-term conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis. Individuals can access this information directly, or alternatively, health professionals may provide the information during a consultation. Local versions of Information Prescriptions are being developed across the country and we are encouraging primary care trusts and general practitioner practices to develop directories of information and processes for providing personalised information to patients and their carers.

E.coli

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements there are to ensure that, when a case of E.coli infection is diagnosed, information regarding the diagnosis is passed to the Health Protection Agency. [293274]

Gillian Merron: When a local national health service laboratory makes a presumptive diagnosis of E. coli 0157, the laboratory should send the sample to the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) Gastrointestinal Infections Reference Unit at the Centre for Infections for confirmation of the diagnosis. The NHS laboratory is also encouraged to report suspect E coli 0157 cases by telephone to the HPA's local Health Protection Unit for rapid investigation and appropriate public health action. Where E. coli 0157 infection is suspected to be a food borne infection, notification is statutorily required.

The HPA is currently putting in place an additional reporting mechanism for Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS), a severe consequence of some E. coli 0157 infections so that when clinicians identify a case of HUS, they will alert the HPA.

The Department has recently consulted on new statutory proposals to make all E. coli 0157 infections, "Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)" and "infectious bloody diarrhoea" notifiable to facilitate more rapid detection of clusters of cases.

E.coli: Godstone Farm

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the Health Protection Agency's performance in containing the spread of E.coli from Godstone Farm; and if he will make a statement. [293273]

Gillian Merron: The role of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in containing the spread of E. coli 0157 infection from Godstone Farm has been to provide health advice to the local authority, as the enforcing authority for Godstone Farm, and to the local primary care trust and the national health service, all of whom have responsibility for taking action. The advice the HPA has given has been acted upon and there has been successful prevention of the spread of infection from the farm. The farm closed on 12 September. With regard to the HPA's wider role in diagnosis, detection and surveillance of E. coli 0157 infection in respect of this particular outbreak, the HPA has already apologised for its lack of timely advice at the commencement of the outbreak and an independent investigation of the outbreak, has been announced by the HPA.

Health Visitors

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent health visitors were in post in *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* each primary care trust in each of the last five years. [292685]

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[1] The Map of Medicine is a map of best available research evidence and a best evidence clinical guideline. It displays this knowledge in an easy-to-use pathways format, reflecting the patient journey and provides a framework for creating local pathways.

Ann Keen: A table showing the number of full time equivalent health visitors employed by the national health service in each primary care trust in the years requested, has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2009, *Official Report,* column 2159W, on hospitals: parking, for what reasons income from charges on NHS staff for car parking at *(a)* Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford and *(b)* St John's Hospital, Chelmsford rose from 2006-07 to 2007-08. [292182]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Car Park charges are not set or controlled by Ministers so the Department does not hold this information. The hon. Member may wish to contact Mid Essex Hospitals Services NHS Trust, for the information requested, who are responsible for the charges on car parks.

Maternity Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* maternity wards and *(b)* maternity ward beds there were in (i) England, (ii) each strategic health authority and (iii) each NHS trust in each of the last three years. [292670]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of maternity wards is not collected. A table showing the average daily number of available beds on maternity wards by both strategic health authority and national health service trust in England for each of the last three years has been placed in the Library.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of women preparing for birth in the NHS who received support from the same midwife throughout pregnancy in the latest period for which figures are available; [292674]

(2) what estimate he has made of the proportion of women giving birth in the NHS who were offered a choice of *(a)* location of birth, *(b)* birth method and *(c)* method of pain relief during birth in the latest period for which figures are available. [292675]

Ann Keen: The commitments made in Maternity Matters that women will be cared for by a named midwife throughout pregnancy and have choice of location of birth, birth method and pain relief during birth are for delivery by December 2009. We have made it clear through the NHS Operating Framework that delivering the Maternity Matters commitments is a high priority for action.

The Department is working with strategic heath authorities (SHAs) to ensure the choice commitments are available. Every SHA now has plans in place to ensure high quality, personal care with greater choice over place of birth and care provided by a named midwife.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the midwife to birth ratio was in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [292678]

Ann Keen: The midwife to birth ratio for each strategic health (SHA) authority in England is included in the following table. The data by PCT is not available.

SHA	*Current full time equivalent midwife: births ratio*
North East	28.4
North West	29.1
Yorkshire and Humber	34.1
East Midlands	40.1
West Midlands	32.9
East of England	39.8
London	34.0
South East Coast	36.5
South Central	40.3
South West	32.6
England	34.8

Source:
Census and Office for National Statistics, September 2008

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent maternity support workers were in post in *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* each primary care trust and *(c)* each acute trust in each of the last five years. [292682]

Ann Keen: A table showing the number of maternity support workers within the national health service, by primary care trust and acute trust has been placed in the Library.

Maternity Services: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on maternity services in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each NHS trust in each of the last three years. [292671]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows maternity expenditure by primary care trusts mapped to strategic health authorities (SHA).

			£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East Midlands SHA	138,948	149,169	151,387
East of England SHA	131,464	159,823	171,369
London SHA	271,826	284,164	335,671
North East SHA	88,551	90,422	91,001
North West SHA	254,309	280,312	316,[illegible]10
South Central SHA	137,468	127,500	139,626
South East Coast SHA	111,155	118,452	133,822
South West SHA	128,545	164,714	1[illegible]529
West Midlands SHA	176,080	198,565	215,736
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	178,431	213,775	231,112
England total	1,616,777	1,786,896	1,968,563

Source:
NHS Summarised Accounts 2006-07 to 2007-08

Midwives

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent midwives were in post in *(a)* the NHS, *(b)* each primary care trust and *(c)* each acute trust in each of the last five years. [292686]

Ann Keen: A table outlining the numbers has been placed in the Library.

Midwives: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to increase numbers of NHS midwives in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [292679]

Ann Keen: On 25 February 2008 the then Secretary of State for Health, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson) announced a package of measures to improve maternity services with an additional £330 million over three years going out to primary care trusts (PCTs). This funding is available to expand the maternity work force.

In addition we have provided a total of £1.5 million to strategic health authorities for 2009-10 and 2010-11 to support midwifery, recruitment, return and retention.

It is for individual PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local population. The funding figures for 2012 are not available.

Midwives: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the 4,000 extra midwives to be provided by 2012 have already been provided in each strategic health authority area; and how many he expects will be provided in each such area in each year to 2012. [291935]

Ann Keen: A table outlining the number of midwives in each strategic health authority area since 2006 is shown as follows.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified midwives in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
England	24,469	25,093	25,664
North East Strategic Health Authority area	1,276	1,288	1,331
North West Strategic Health Authority area	3,959	4,010	3,892
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	2,445	2,449	2,472
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	1,704	1,745	1,771
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area	2,770	2,861	2,850
East of England Strategic Health Authority area	2,328	2,407	2,476
London Strategic Health Authority area	4,307	4,407	4,785
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority area	1,760	1,820	1,915
South Central Strategic Health Authority area	1,550	1,677	1,735
South West Strategic Health Authority area	2,370	2,429	2,437

We do not hold current information on predicted annual midwife numbers by SHA. Local NHS organisations are best placed to plan and recruit the right people with the right skills to best meet the needs of the local population.

We continue to work with local NHS organisations and monitor increasing midwife numbers.

The latest NHS workforce census as at 30 September 2008 shows we have over 25,600 midwives employed in the NHS, the highest level since 1997. Primary Care Trusts have met our commitment to recruit an additional 1,000 midwives and the NHS is making good progress with its recruitment plans.

Midwives: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have enrolled on the Midwifery Return to Practice course in each of the last two years. [292672]

Ann Keen: The data we have received from strategic health authorities (SHAs) show 93 midwives enrolled on the scheme for 2008-09. Data are not available for 2009-10 as several courses will not commence until 2010.

The Department has recently provided a total of £1.5 million to SHAs for 2009-10 to support midwifery recruitment, return and retention. Return to practice is only one way to increase midwifery numbers. Other local initiatives include leadership development in maternity services to support succession planning, retention plans and individualised plans for midwives due to retire to support them to remain in practice, maternity support worker development and midwifery project facilitators and mentors to support midwives on Return to Practice programmes to ensure newly qualified and recently returned midwives can integrate fully into the national health service.

There are expectations that similar funding will be available to SHAs leading up to 2012.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places were available for midwifery in each of the last five years. [292673]

Ann Keen: The number of midwifery training places which were available in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Midwifery	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Degree	895	1,042	788	1,307	1,944
Diploma	744	517	648	412	0
Other	735	661	554	352	328
Total	2,374	2,220	1,990	2,071	2,272

Source:
Quarterly Monitoring Returns.

There has been a 38 per cent. increase in the number of students entering training to become a midwife since 1996-97 to 2,272 in 2008-09.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the attrition rate from *(a)* three-year and *(b)* 18-month midwifery courses in each strategic health authority was in each of the last five years. [292677]

Ann Keen: Information on attrition rates from 18-month midwifery courses is not held centrally.

Attrition rates from three-year midwifery courses in each strategic health authority (SHA) from 2003-04, the earliest year available, are shown in the following table. Students from later cohorts have yet to graduate.

Midwifery attrition rates

Percentage

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
SHA	*Diploma*	*Degree*	*Diploma*	*Degree*	*Diploma*	*Degree*
North East	42.9	17.6	28.6	14.0	n/a	13.79
North West	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.47	12.50
Yorkshire and the Humber	10.8	23.3	13.5	9.3	30.77	14.58
East Midlands	10.4	27.9	10.7	32.4	17.81	8.57
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20.69
East of England	9.0	n/a	7.7	7.1	18.88	15.38
London	15.0	7.7	8.2	23.6	1.47	13.54
South East Coast	35.5	18.2	26.2	13.4	n/a	14.97
South Central	42.1	15.9	54.8	2.5	21.92	16.95
South West	28.8	14.7	23.8	31.0	30.0	20.56

Notes:

1. Some SHAs could not provide data for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

2. 2005-06 cohorts still have large numbers of students yet to graduate so figures should be treated as provisional.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery training places were commissioned by his Department for the 2008-09 academic year. [293216]

Ann Keen: The national health service strategic health authorities commissioned 1,944 midwifery degree training places and 328 18 month diploma training places for the 2008-09 academic year.

There has been a 38 per cent. increase in the number of students entering training to become a midwife since 1996-97 to 2,272 in 2008-09.

Midwives: Vacancies

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery vacancies in the NHS there are; and what the *(a)* three-month vacancy rate and *(b)* total vacancy rate for NHS midwives was in each of the last five years. [292680]

Ann Keen: The latest NHS Vacancy Survey shows that there were 191 midwifery three month vacancies (1 per cent. of the midwifery work force) in the national health service in England on 31 March 2009.

The three month vacancy rate and total vacancy rate for NHS midwives in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care vacancies surveys March each year vacancies in England for qualified midwifery staff

Percentage

	Three month vacancy rate	*All vacancies rate*
2005	1.8	—
2006	1.0	—
2007	0.5	—
2008	0.8	2.1
2009	1.0	3.4

Notes:

1. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post from the previous September non-medical workforce census (full-time equivalent).

2. Three month vacancies are vacancies as at 31 March which trusts are actively trying to fill which had lasted for three months or more.

3. Total vacancy rates are vacancies expressed as a percentage of total vacancies plus staff in post from the previous September non-medical workforce census (full-time equivalent).

4. A vacancy is defined as one which employers are actively trying to fill as at 31 March.

5. Not available. Total vacancies were collected for the first time in 2008.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Vacancies Survey.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sickness days were taken as a result of assaults of staff in each NHS trust in the most recent year for which figures are available; how many working days were lost per staff member as a result of assault in each NHS trust area in that year; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to NHS trusts of working days lost as a result of assaults on NHS staff in the most recent period for which figures are available. [289273]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

If a member of staff is assaulted on duty, a record must be made and maintained locally as a requirement under health and safety legislation.

NHS: Foreign Workers

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses from developing countries have joined the NHS in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [293681]

Ann Keen: The Department does not have a clear definition, nor a list of nations classified as being, developing countries. A table containing details of the country of qualification of doctors, broken down into the United Kingdom, European economic area, outside the European economic area and unknown country of qualification has been placed in the Library. The country of qualification for nurses is not collected. It must be stated that the country of qualification does not necessarily denote that this is the birth land of the individual.

NHS: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of the NHS pension scheme are expected to reach scheme pension age in each of the next 10 years. [292836]

Ann Keen: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Membership data as at 31 March 2006 was provided by National Health Service Pensions to the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). GAD estimates there are 560,000 active members of the scheme within 10 years of their normal pension age. This equates to around 440,000 members with a normal pension age of 60 aged over 50 and around 120,000 members with a normal pension age of 55 aged over 45. The average retirement age from the scheme is 62.

Obstetrics: Gynaecology

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent obstetrics and gynaecology consultants were in post in *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* each acute trust in each of the last five years. [292684]

Ann Keen: A table outlining the number of full-time equivalent obstetrics and gynaecology consultants in post in the national health service and each acute trust in each of the last five years has been placed in the Library.

Paediatrics

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent paediatricians were in post in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [292683]

Ann Keen: The following table outlines the number of full-time equivalent paediatricians in post in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical staff within the paediatric group of specialties by Strategic Health Authority England at 30 September each year full time equivalents

		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
		All staff of which	*Consultant*	*All staff of which*	*Consultant*	*All staff of which*	*Consultant*	*All staff of which*	*Consultant*	*All staff of which*	*Consultant*
England		5,995	1,738	6,321	1,569	6,603	1,985	6,600	2,012	7,000	2,073
North East	Q30	347	114	339	121	364	129	375	128	382	133
North West	Q31	813	225	877	233	873	238	800	253	1,027	270
Yorkshire and The Humber	Q32	611	182	645	200	639	202	725	209	697	214
East Midlands	Q33	420	119	470	128	458	134	479	146	489	156
West Midlands	Q34	566	168	547	166	615	191	634	202	651	197
East of England	Q35	485	154	538	173	535	173	556	179	562	178
London	Q36	1,434	413	1,540	452	1,657	494	1,629	471	1,667	473
South East Coast	Q37	429	112	452	119	492	132	450	124	468	129
South Central	Q38	421	130	427	133	451	138	454	140	497	152

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical staff within the paediatric group of specialties by Strategic Health Authority England at 30 September each year full time equivalents

		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
		All staff of which	*Consultant*	*All staff of which*	*Consultant*	*All staff of which*	*Consultant*	*All staff of which*	*Consultant*	*All staff of which*	*Consultant*
South West	Q39	469	123	486	144	519	154	498	158	560	172

Notes:
Data are full time equivalents rounded to the nearest whole number.
Data Quality
Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
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Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 106 of his Department's Green Paper, Shaping the future of care together, what estimate he has made of the percentage of the costs of the partnership option which could be met from the existing social care budget. [291864]

Phil Hope: Full figures relating to the proposals outlined in the Green Paper are contained within the impact assessment, a copy of which has previously been placed in the Library.

These are ongoing costs to the care and support system in comparison to the current system. These are indicative only, and are based on a set of modelling assumptions, as well as estimates about likely mechanisms for implementation.

If this funding model was implemented we would expect these costs could be substantially revised and refined depending on the funding available. Costs would have to be met from within the public spending envelope set for future spending reviews, which will be in line with the plans for fiscal consolidation set out at Budget 2009. There would also be one-off costs relating to the change of system, which are not quantified.

Social Services: Nutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for publication of his Department's report on nutrition in care settings; and if he will make a statement. [293103]

Phil Hope: We expect that the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board's final report will be published later this year.

St. Thomas' Hospital

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to maintain the standard of service provided by the specialist stroke unit at St Thomas' Hospital. [290067]

Ann Keen: This is a matter for the local national health service.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants his Department and its predecessors made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292652]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the previous reply given on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1697W, to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink).

This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Day Care

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childminders there have been in each local authority area in the North West in each quarter of each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [289285]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of registered childminders in each local authority area in the North West Region in each year since 1997 has been placed in both Libraries.

Quarterly data are only available from March 2003 onwards. Data were not collected in 2002 because of the transfer of responsibility to Ofsted.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290532]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of procurement contracts his Department and its predecessors awarded to small businesses in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293238]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to table 8.4 of his Department's Annual Report 2009, page 176, to which programmes *(a)* the 2009-10 and *(b)* the 2010-11 budget for (i) the Youth Task Force and (ii) Youth Programmes has been allocated. [293272]

Dawn Primarolo: The breakdown of the Youth Task Force and Youth Programmes, which are shown aggregated in DCSF's departmental annual report 2009, are provided in the following tables for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11:

Departmental report allocation

		£
	2009-10	*2010-11*
(i) Youth Task Force Programmes		
Youth Task Force—Communications	2,000	3,256
Youth Task Force Research and grants	10,046	3,597
Youth Task Force Programmes total	12,046	6,853
(ii) Youth Programmes		
Contact Point (Capital)	3,800	35,200
Youth Challenge Fund	800	4,300
Workforce Development Capital Grant	218	218
National Youth Agency (NYA)/National Voluntary Youth Agency (NVYO) Grants	1,000	8,000
Children and Families Directorate (CFD) Capital Grant	13,160	21,334
Voluntary Child Services (VCS) Children Young People and Families (CYPF) Grant and capacity improving	29,807	21,802
Communications/Participation/Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS)	1,614	864
Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS)/Integrated Children's System(ICS)/Making Safeguarding Everyone's Responsibility (MSER)/Adoption Strategy/Quality Protects (QP)	67,033	59,523
Family Fund Trust/Contact a Family	25,332	23,322
10 Year Strategy Additions (including Youth Facilities, Community Cohesion, Youth Crime Prevention, Do it for real, Vetting and Barring, and Young Media Fund)	39,142	66,000
Youth Sector Support	40,730	40,000
Peer Mentoring	240	240
Youth Programmes total	222,876	280,803

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will send a copy of his reply to the letter of 21 September 2009 from Mr. Christopher Curtis, the headmaster of St. Bede's School, Redhill, to the hon. Member for Reigate, to whom the original letter was copied. [293470]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's correspondence target is to answer all items of correspondence from within 15 working days of receipt. Mr. Curtis's letter was received in the Department on 29 September and, in line with this target, a full reply will be sent on or before 20 October. In line with information legislation it is not the Department's practice to send a copy of final replies to copy recipients unless advised to do so by the correspondent. The hon. Member may wish to approach Mr. Curtis directly to ask if he will provide him with a copy of the letter.

Primary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attended *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four, *(d)* five and *(e)* 10 primary schools in each of the last 10 academic years for which figures are available. [293385]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested would require substantial new analysis. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Discipline

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what forms his Department issues to schools to complete relating to disruptive pupils; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such form. [291941]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not issue forms for schools to complete when dealing with a disruptive pupil. However our guidance on the use of force to control or restrain pupils strongly advises schools to maintain systematic records of significant incidents and provides a model record form that they are able to use for this purpose. A copy of that guidance, including the model form, is shown in the following link:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=12187

Pupils: Teachers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil to teacher ratio in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools is in each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293062]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is published in table 27 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) "School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)" published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27_Vals.xls

Schools: Broadband

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support is available to introduce broadband services into primary and secondary schools. [292400]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The introduction of broadband into primary and secondary schools has been supported by both funding and regional support networks. Targets were set for over 99 per cent. of schools to be connected by the end of 2006, and by that date 98.96 per cent. of primary schools and 99.82 per cent. of secondary schools were reported as connected. Funding continues to be made available for the introduction of broadband and its use via the Harnessing Technology and School Development Grants and 10 regional broadband consortia support schools in their areas and nationally through the National Education Network.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to the public purse of undertaking the most recent Schools Sport Surveys was. [292571]

Mr. Iain Wright: The cost of undertaking the annual School Sport Survey in 2008/09, via the DCSF's contractors TNS, was £296,628 including VAT.

Secondary Education: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding per secondary school pupil has been allocated in *(a)* Sunderland and *(b)* England for 2009-10. [289334]

Mr. Coaker: The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) guaranteed per pupil unit of funding (GUF) for 2009-10 for Sunderland is £4,137. The average guaranteed per unit of funding for 2009-10 for England is £4,218. This is for all funded pupils aged three to 15 and is in cash terms. Separate figures are not available for secondary schools as funding is not allocated by phase.

Teachers: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many members of the teachers' pension scheme are expected to reach scheme pension age in each of the next 10 years. [292838]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the number of in-service teachers who will reach age 60—the normal pension age (NPA) for existing members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) on 1 January 2007—in the next ten years. Since January 2007 any new entrant to the TPS has a NPA of 65. There will also be a number of out of service teachers who will become eligible for their pension benefits over the next 10 years.

Membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)[1] by age, March 2008, provisional—England and Wales

	In service	
Age	Full-time	Part-time[2]
50	15,810	5,870
51	16,410	6,090
52	16,900	6,150
53	17,430	6,210
54	18,210	6,480
55	17,150	6,550
56	15,820	6,810
57	14,280	6,720
58	12,280	6,690
59	9,780	6,240
Total	154,07	63,810

[1] Teachers with recorded service in any establishment that is within the TPS (includes state funded schools, further education, and other higher and independent sector institutions that are members of the TPS).

[2] Part-time teachers include a proportion who are not contributors to the TPS.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Database of Teacher Records.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 16 October 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Employment Agencies: EU Law

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent meetings have taken place between his Department and representatives of the Trades Union Congress on the EU Agency Workers Directive. [292177]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* Since October 2008, when the EU Agency Workers Directive was agreed, my officials have met a wide range of organisations to discuss implementation of the Directive. This includes National consultation events held in London and the regions as part of the public consultation exercise held between 8 May and 31 July 2009. Officials have also had a number of bilateral discussions with representatives of not only the Trades Union Congress but also organisations representing hirers and agencies to explore specific issues arising from the consultation paper in more detail.

Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had on the terms of proposals put by the Communication Workers Union to Royal Mail on 13 October 2009 on the postal services dispute; and if he will make a statement. [293843]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers have met with both parties over the past weeks to listen to their views and to encourage dialogue but have made it very clear that strikes are not the way to resolve differences or safeguard the future of our postal service. It is for Royal Mail's management and the union to resolve the dispute through talks.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to resolve the industrial dispute affecting Royal Mail. [293844]

Mr. McFadden: I have remained in close contact with the unions and Royal Mail management throughout this dispute. Our message to them has been clear—strikes are not the way to resolve differences or safeguard the future of our postal services and we urge them to resolve all issues through dialogue.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the size of the Royal Mail pension fund deficit is; what it has been in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [293539]

Mr. McFadden: The current size of the accounting deficit as reported in the Royal Mail's 2008-09 report and accounts is £6.8 billion. The last formal actuarial valuation of the pension deficit was given as £3.4 billion in March 2006. The trustees are undertaking the next triennial actuarial valuation, which started in March 2009 and will need to finish by June 2010. The following table shows both accounting and actuarial pension deficit values since March 2003, which is when the scheme first fell into deficit.

Funding of the pension scheme remains an operational matter between Royal Mail and the trustees.

Royal Mail pension deficit figures since financial year 2002-03

£ billion

Financial year	*Accounting deficit*	*Actuarial deficit*
2002-03	4.7	2.5
2003-04	4.4	—
2004-05	4.0	—
2005-06	5.6	3.4
2006-07	5.0	—
2007-08	2.9	—
2008-09	6.8	—

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £100 million

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Service: Manpower

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in each department and agency of the Civil Service in 1996-97. [290136]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in each department and agency of the Civil Service in 1996-97. (290136)

The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by each government department and agency in 1996-7 has been published by Cabinet Office and is available in hardcopy from the House of Commons Library.

An online edition of Civil Service Statistics 1997 is available at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/css97_tcm6-2540.pdf .

Cybercrime

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what procedures the Government have in place to respond to a cyber attack against *(a)* Government networks and *(b)* the networks of private companies comprising UK critical national infrastructure; and if she will make a statement. [292697]

Tessa Jowell: Her Majesty's Government have a wide ranging set of measures in place to protect the United Kingdom from all forms of electronic attack including cyber-terrorism and cyber crime, and to respond appropriately.

These measures include:

The establishment in September of the Office of Cyber Security (OCS) and the Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC), to direct and coordinate the new national cyber security strategy.

CPNI, The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure, provides advice on electronic or cyber protective security measures to the businesses and organisations that comprise the UK's critical national infrastructure, including public utilities companies and banks. It also runs CSIRTUK, the Combined Security Incident Response Team (UK), which advises partners in industry who operate elements of the national infrastructure, how to manage the response to incidents.

GovCertUK, part of GCHQ, works closely with CSIRTUK; it provides warnings, alerts and assistance in resolving serious IT incidents for the public sector.

When GovCertUK becomes aware of an incident it provides the affected Department (usually through its IT Security Officer) with all the available information and offers relevant advice to help resolve the situation. On occasion, and as necessary, GovCertUK also provides on-site support to affected departments.

CESG, also part of GCHQ, provides government departments with advice and guidance on how to protect against, detect and mitigate various types of cyber attack.

In addition:

All Government Departments have access to the Government Secure Intranet (GSi) which securely connects around 200 Government Departments and Agencies.

The Government's Data Handling Review published in June 2008 mandated a number of minimum data security measures for HMG such as penetration testing of Government IT systems.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps the Government are taking to achieve common standards of cyber security between EU member states; and if she will make a statement. [292498]

Tessa Jowell: The Government are working closely with the Commission, other European member states and ENISA (the European Network and Information Security Agency) to increase levels of security and resilience in the communications sector at many different levels. This includes collaborative efforts aimed at increasing European cooperation on policy to enhance cyber security, such as developing European priorities, principles and guidelines on long-term internet resilience and stability.

The Government also takes an active part in major standards bodies (including ETSI—the European Telecommunications Standards Institute), organisations and discussions concerned with ICT standards, to ensure that processes are in place to create an effective standards regime in this area.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Government has a framework in place to share cyber incident event data with *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* relevant research institutions; and if she will make a statement. [292499]

Tessa Jowell: CPNI, the Centre for the Protection of the National Infrastructure, runs the Combined Security Incident Response Team (CSIRTUK) a service that provides advice for the private sector on managing responses to electronic incidents.

Details of security incidents reported to CPNI are treated in the strictest confidence.

CPNI facilitates regular forums with private and public sector organisations, including research bodies, during which electronic security issues and any appropriate mitigating measures are discussed. These meetings are held under agreed confidentiality rules among participants.

General, non-classified protective advice and best practice about countering the threat from cyber attacks is also provided on the CPNI website.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services in each year since its creation; and what the projected spending on the centre is in each of the next five years. [293344]

Dawn Primarolo: The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services was created in 2008-09 and spent £2.783 million. Projected spending is currently £5.573 million for 2009-10 and £5.466 million for 2010-11. The grant expires on 31 March 2011.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the projected cost is of the annual review of ContactPoint in 2009-10. [293377]

Dawn Primarolo: ContactPoint security arrangements are under a continuous review and its full security accreditation will be validated annually. The current projected cost of the annual security penetration test is £50,000, which will be met from within the overall £44 million annual operating budget for ContactPoint.

Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* infant, *(b)* primary and *(c)* secondary classes in each local authority area have at least 30 pupils; and if he will make a statement. [277513]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Class size information for 2009 can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000843/index.shtml

The latest available information can be found in the following table. Class size legislation allows for classes of up to 30. Our usual measure of large classes is 31 or more pupils.

Classes as Taught[1]: Number of classes with 30 pupils[2] or more by local authority area, position in January 2008 (Final), England

	Key Stage 1 classes[3]	*Maintained primary school[4] classes*	*State-funded secondary school[4, 5] classes*
England	14,170	42,180	18,230
City of London	x	x	0

Classes as Taught[1]: Number of classes with 30 pupils[2] or more by local authority area, position in January 2008 (Final), England

	Key Stage 1 classes[3]	Maintained primary school[4] classes	State-funded secondary school[4, 5] classes
Camden	50	110	10
Greenwich	60	170	70
Hackney	70	130	40
Hammersmith and Fulham	60	100	40
Islington	40	90	50
Kensington and Chelsea	20	50	20
Lambeth	90	190	40
Lewisham	100	180	40
Southwark	60	130	40
Tower Hamlets	110	220	50
Wandsworth	80	150	60
Westminster	40	70	20
Barking and Dagenham	50	140	50
Barnet	160	370	80
Bexley	110	310	100
Brent	160	350	80
Bromley	150	380	130
Croydon	190	430	100
Ealing	180	350	90
Enfield	200	460	100
Haringey	120	250	10
Harrow	100	230	30
Havering	80	260	90
Hillingdon	90	230	80
Hounslow	110	220	90
Kingston upon Thames	80	170	60
Merton	70	130	40
Newham	100	220	110
Redbridge	200	490	130
Richmond upon Thames	100	160	30
Sutton	90	250	100
Waltham Forest	130	280	80
Birmingham	570	1,360	380
Coventry	110	270	100
Dudley	60	200	120
Sandwell	120	310	100
Solihull	80	230	90
Walsall	100	260	70
Wolverhampton	50	170	60
Knowsley	50	140	30
Liverpool	80	230	130
St Helens	50	170	70
Sefton	80	240	130
Wirral	40	180	80
Bolton	110	330	90
Bury	30	150	70
Manchester	140	390	100
Oldham	90	290	70
Rochdale	60	210	80
Salford	50	170	40
Stockport	60	230	80
Tameside	70	190	90
Trafford	80	270	80
Wigan	90	290	100
Barnsley	30	160	70
Doncaster	50	190	90
Rotherham	50	200	70
Sheffield	160	500	180
Bradford	310	650	150
Calderdale	60	170	100
Kirklees	100	340	120
Leeds	180	550	240
Wakefield	50	240	180
Gateshead	30	110	70
Newcastle upon Tyne	90	200	110
North Tyneside	40	120	90
South Tyneside	30	100	30
Sunderland	40	130	70
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	40	130	100
Bristol, City of	130	280	60
North Somerset	70	220	100
South Gloucestershire	60	210	120
Hartlepool	10	70	30
Middlesbrough	10	60	20
Redcar and Cleveland	20	70	40
Stockton-on-Tees	30	130	60
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	50	190	90
East Riding of Yorkshire	40	190	150
North East Lincolnshire	20	100	70
North Lincolnshire	30	130	80
North Yorkshire	60	290	180
York	30	100	50
Bedfordshire	70	140	210
Luton	110	240	70
Buckinghamshire	150	410	250
Milton Keynes	60	180	100
Derbyshire	140	580	310
Derby	60	220	70
Dorset	90	270	190
Poole	60	150	40
Bournemouth	70	170	60
Durham	50	300	180
Darlington	40	120	50
East Sussex	130	500	170
Brighton and Hove	130	300	80
Hampshire	380	1,180	420
Portsmouth	60	170	40
Southampton	70	200	40

Classes as Taught[1]: Number of classes with 30 pupils[2] or more by local authority area, position in January 2008 (Final), England

	Key Stage 1 classes[3]	*Maintained primary school[4] classes*	*State-funded secondary school[4, 5] classes*
Leicestershire	110	420	250
Leicester	70	210	120
Rutland	10	20	10
Staffordshire	150	510	330
Stoke-on-Trent	70	170	80
Wiltshire	80	320	160
Swindon	60	160	90
Bracknell Forest	30	90	40
Windsor and Maidenhead	20	100	50
West Berkshire	40	120	50
Reading	40	100	30
Slough	90	180	50
Wokingham	40	150	50
Cambridgeshire	130	490	230
Peterborough	70	170	60
Cheshire	120	470	270
Halton	20	60	30
Warrington	60	180	110
Devon	110	500	260
Plymouth	70	240	120
Torbay	40	130	50
Essex	350	1,140	600
Southend-on-Sea	60	180	70
Thurrock	40	140	80
Herefordshire	20	80	80
Worcestershire	110	300	260
Kent	500	1,380	570
Medway	50	200	60
Lancashire	210	920	480
Blackburn with Darwen	50	160	70
Blackpool	50	170	50
Nottinghamshire	160	580	310
Nottingham	50	180	40
Shropshire	40	220	100
Telford and Wrekin	40	170	60
Cornwall	80	410	180
Cumbria	70	280	230
Gloucestershire	140	470	260
Hertfordshire	420	1,140	490
Isle of Wight	10	40	70
Lincolnshire	100	500	260
Norfolk	100	480	250
Northamptonshire	170	520	210
Northumberland	40	110	220
Oxfordshire	110	380	180
Somerset	90	360	240
Suffolk	70	260	200
Surrey	420	1,030	500
Warwickshire	130	470	210
West Sussex	220	710	270

[1] Includes CTCS and Academies.
[2] This table is based on classes of 30 pupils or more, the normal measure is 31 pupils or more.
[3] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[4] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[5] Includes children in reception and key stage 1 classes.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Public Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1937-8W, on schools: finance, which individual programmes are included in the category Positive Activities for Young People Programmes; and how much funding has been allocated to each such programme. [293269]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* In the reply given on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1936W, by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools, we offered a figure of £94 million for the expenditure in 2010-11.

The Positive Activities for Young People Programme is now a single programme which is paid to local authorities as part of their Area Based Grant.

Pupil Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of permanent exclusion from school was in each income deprivation affecting children index decile of deprivation in the last year for which figures are available. [293608]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the rate of permanent exclusion in each income deprivation affecting children index decile of deprivation, according to the location of the school, is shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3] rate of permanent exclusion by level of deprivation of school[4], England—2007-08 (estimates)[5]

Level of deprivation of school based on IDACI[4] (percentage)	*Rate of permanent exclusion[3,6]*
0-10 most deprived	0.12
10-20	0.13
20-30	0.14
30-40	0.11
40-50	0.12
50-60	0.10
60-70	0.09
70-80	0.09
80-90	0.08
90-100 least deprived	0.09

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3] rate of permanent exclusion by level of deprivation of school[4], England—2007-08 (estimates)[5]

Level of deprivation of school based on IDACI[4] (percentage)	*Rate of permanent exclusion[5,6]*
Total for all schools	0.11

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] 2007 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index at Super Output Area level based on the location of the school.

[5] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

[6] The number of permanent exclusions in each IDACI band as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2008.

Source:
School Census

Schools: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 996W, on schools: standards, what the estimated cost of collecting the information would be; which data protection rules would be contravened by collecting it; on what basis the estimate of £90 million was made; how much of the £90 million was paid by his Department; and from which budgetary headings the money came. [293542]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not hold the information on each individual adviser or their cost for 2008-09. We estimate that the cost of collecting this would exceed the cost threshold of £750 applicable to central Government. Furthermore, to provide information on individual advisers would infringe the rights of an individual's personal information and therefore be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The estimate of £90 million was derived from information collected through the Department's review of its field forces in 2008. It is difficult to provide a precise breakdown of expenditure on each of the field forces, since they are delivered through a range of mechanisms—some are directly contracted (so the cost of advisers is incorporated within a larger contract), some are located in Government Offices as secondees, and some are employed directly by DCSF or its NDPBs. The £90 million includes some funding from other Government Departments in the delivery of improvement support where there is shared policy interest. It is difficult to disaggregate the proportion paid by this Department.

The Department's contribution forms a proportion of its allocation from the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).

Schools: Vetting

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* elected members of a local education authority will be required to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority before visiting a school under the provisions of the Vetting and Barring Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [288813]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 21 July 2009]:* The hon. Member will have received a copy of the Secretary of State's letter of 31 July, which addresses all the points raised in this parliamentary question. I attach a copy for ease of reference.

Letter from Ed Balls, dated 31 July 2009:

The new Vetting and Barring scheme as it applies to Members of Parliament and schools

I am writing to all Members of Parliament (MPs) representing constituencies in England and Wales about the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS), with a courtesy copy to MPs representing constituencies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Following recent questions in the House, which were prompted by some misleading media coverage, I want to make clear how the VBS will operate and, in particular, how it will apply to MPs when they work *for* schools, but not when they make visits to schools without working for those schools. (The same principles would also apply in relation to work for children's centres.)

As you may be aware the VBS is being introduced in response to a recommendation from the independent Bichard Inquiry, established following the Soham murders by school caretaker Ian Huntley. Sir Michael Bichard's Inquiry into these tragic events found that there was more we could reasonably do so that people who have already shown they pose a threat to children are prevented from taking up positions in schools. The VBS is designed to achieve precisely this in relation to schools.

All new entrants to the schools workforce will have to register under the VBS from November 2010. For those who were already doing such work before November 2010, starting with those who have never been subject to CRB checks, we will phase in registration between 2011 and 2015.

In the schools context, people who are not members of the schools workforce will be required to register with the VBS for one of only two reasons. The first reason is because they frequently work for a particular school or schools. Conversely, someone who just visits schools, for example to watch a school play or attend a prize-giving, to meet the head teacher or to observe a lesson in a classroom, will not have to register under the VBS.

MPs will therefore not have to register with the VBS in the course of their normal duties such as visits to schools or children's centres in their constituencies. The only circumstances in which they would have to register are if, for example, an MP has arranged to go into schools to, say, teach politics to groups of pupils once a month for several successive months, as this means they would be classed as working for schools. Anyone doing this as paid work would have to pay a one-off charge of £64 to register under the VBS, but if an MP is doing this as a volunteer the £64 fee would not apply.

The second and only other situation, in the schools context, in which people who are not members of the school and children's workforce will have to register with the VBS is by virtue of the particular post and decision-making powers they hold. For this reason some local councillors and council officers will be required to register, including all Lead Members for Children and Directors of Children's Services. On this basis, I and my DCSF ministerial team plan to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority as soon as registration starts in 2010.

Further information about the VBS can be found at www.isa-gov.org.uk . In addition, I also enclose a note setting out the facts in response to some of the myths about the VBS which have appeared recently in the media.

My Department, which leads for the Government in relation to policy on the safeguarding of children, is the main funder of the VBS together with the Department of Health, which has the parallel lead for vulnerable adults. The VBS in England and Wales is being delivered for DCSF and for the Department of Health by the Home Office, which also leads for the Government on criminal records information.

I am copying this letter to Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Social Services in the Welsh Assembly Government.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Analytical Services Research Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research projects have been commissioned by his Department's *(a)* Analytical Services Research Programme and *(b)* Communications Directorate in the last 24 months. [292704]

Barbara Follett: Details of research projects commissioned from the Analytical Services Research Programme are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes the subject, contractor and cost of each research commission.

For details of research commissioned by the Communications Directorate I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 538-39W, as amended on 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 9MC. From that date onward all research commission by Communications is on the Research Database.

Atherton Associates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether officials of his Department have met representatives of Atherton Associates in the last 18 months. [292826]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Building Alterations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to permitted development rights which have restricted the rights of property owners to extend a dwelling have been made in the last 36 months. [292809]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government introduced a new regime of permitted development rights for householders in October 2008. This replaced the previous volume-based limits approach with one which sets clearer limits on the size and position of household developments that can benefit from permitted development rights.

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No. 2) (England) Order 2008 allows householders to extend their properties without the need for planning permission subject to the limitations and conditions that are set out in the order.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292654]

Barbara Follett: A complete list of funding to charitable institutions over the past five years could be made available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, I refer the hon. Member to the list of charitable institutions that this Department funded in 2008-09 as published in our resource accounts on 14 July 2009 (HC449, pages 17-21) and also those funded in 2007-08 as published in the departmental annual report in May 2008 (Cm 7394).

Civil Service Compensation Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme will have implications for compensation schemes in *(a)* local government and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies overseen by his Department. [292664]

Barbara Follett: Proposed changes to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme will have no implications for the compensation scheme available to local government employees or for NDPBs who have separate provisions.

Community Development Foundation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department is providing to the Community Development Foundation in 2009-10; and what the *(a)* function and *(b)* purpose of the foundation is. [292579]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government are providing £1,706,000 in grant in aid to our NDPB the Community Development Foundation in 2009-10. CDF's charitable objects are: to develop the capacity and skills of members of socially and economically or socially disadvantaged communities in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

The aims of the Community Development Foundation are to maintain contact with grassroots experience, through consultancy and managed programmes and projects, links with individual practitioners, and indirectly through collaborative work with partner organisations; identify transferable good practice, through research, evaluation and collaborative activity; advise policy-makers and disseminate good practice, through policy work, training and conferences, publications and consultancy.

Council Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council homes he expects to be built in each year under the local authority new build programme. [293000]

Mr. Ian Austin: The housing pledge, a centrepiece of our building Britain's future plan, announced an extra £1.5 billion to build new houses over this year and next. Funds from this pledge have been earmarked to support direct development by local authorities, to add to the £100 million already announced in the Budget.

Round 1 of the local authority new build programme announced in September resulted in 49 councils being awarded funding to build 217 schemes across the country providing 2,174 new homes. Bidding in Round 2 closes at the end of October.

We expect the programme to provide around 3,500 new homes, completed in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Council Housing: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the revenue raised by local authorities from reducing their council tax discount on empty homes; and whether this revenue will *(a)* continue to be kept by local authorities after the 2011-12 settlement and *(b)* be taken into account in the calculation of their tax-base for the purposes of allocating central government grant. [292891]

Barbara Follett: As at October 2008, reductions to council tax discounts for empty homes generated an annual additional revenue of £104 million over England. "Additional revenue" refers to the extra amount raised by applying a discount smaller than 50 per cent. We expect to calculate the council tax projections for the 2011-12 settlement based on the Council Tax Base (CTB) returns that authorities supply in 2008, 2009 and 2010. These will take into account the reduction in council tax discount on empty homes.

Council Housing: Tenants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of families required to move home by a local authority following the expiry of the right to statutory succession to a local authority property in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [292668]

Mr. Ian Austin: No estimate has been made.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the expenditure of each local authority in England was raised from council tax in the latest period for which figures are available. [292695]

Barbara Follett: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the latest estimates of the percentage of revenue expenditure financed by council tax by each local authority in England for 2008-09.

Council Tax: Ministers of Religion

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has given to billing authorities on *(a)* the categories of duty which a minister of religion should be able to demonstrate in order to be eligible for a Class E or Class H council tax exemption, *(b)* the definition of a minister of religion and *(c)* the religions which are recognised for the purpose of this exemption. [292708]

Barbara Follett: On 21 September 1994 the then Department of Environment sent to chief finance officers of billing authorities the following guidance:

"Under class E of SI 1992/551, the owner of a dwelling is liable to pay the council tax in respect of it if it is

> "a dwelling which is inhabited by a minister of religion of any religious denomination as a residence from which he performs the duties of his office."

Under class H of SI 1992/558, a dwelling is exempt from the council tax if it is

> "an unoccupied dwelling which is held for the purpose of being available for occupation by a minister of any religious denomination as a residence from which to perform the duties of his office."

The term "minister of religion" is not defined in the Act. Neither is the concept of occupying a property as a residence from which to conduct the duties of the office of a minister of religion. Authorities must consider the facts of each case in determining whether or not the person who inhabits, or for whom a property is held, is a minister of religion, and whether or not the property is used or held for use as a residence from which a minister of religion conducts the duties of his office.

In the Department's view a person might normally be considered a minister of religion if his duties include at least some of the following:

conducting religious worship;

providing pastoral care, especially to those who are sick, distressed or needy;

conducting weddings, funerals or baptisms (or their equivalent);

providing leadership to local members of his denomination;

overseeing the ministry of others who perform these functions, providing them with support and pastoral care.

It is also the Department's view that, in considering whether or not a minister conducts his duties from a property, regard may normally be had to whether he is available at that property to provide pastoral care, or whether business relating to his role as minister is conducted there. It is the Department's view that it would not normally be sufficient for a minister merely to reside in the property and undertake his private worship there."

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model has been used to assist in the amendment of council tax bandings; and whether the model is connected to his Department's council tax banding support tool. [292714]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows.

(a) The AVM has not been used directly to assist in the amendment of council tax bandings.

(b) The council tax banding support tool was developed using automated valuation modelling techniques.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent from the public purse to date on *(a)* the 2007 council tax revaluation and *(b)* computer databases and data gathering associated with that revaluation. [292739]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms) on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 775W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 190W, on council tax, (1) how many dwellings in England have been assigned the value significant code of OS (patio) in each local authority area, or in each equivalent local administrative area that the Valuation Office Agency's database uses, in the most recent period for which figures are available; [292853]

(2) how many homes in each local authority area have a *(a)* GG value significant code and *(b)* OS code; [293206]

(3) with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's reply to request 11437929.1/CEO/TE made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, if he will place in the Library a copy of the chart showing the number of dwellings assigned with each individual dwellinghouse code and each individual value significant code across England in the most recent period for which figures are available; [293257]

(4) how many dwellings in each local billing authority, or closest administrative unit used by the Valuation Office Agency, have been recorded with a *(a)* VC and *(b)* VE value significant code. [293350]

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 25W, on council tax: valuation, for what reasons the automated valuation model (AVM) is not being used for council tax valuations and revaluations; what use is being made of the AVM database; and whether the database is being updated with property attribute information. [293015]

Barbara Follett: The automated valuation model (AVM) is not being used for a council tax revaluation as there is no revaluation taking place. It is not being used for individual council tax valuations, as it was developed as a tool for mass appraisal and is not an efficient tool for valuing individual properties.

There is no AVM database. The AVM accesses the Valuation Office Agency's digitised database of property records.

The Valuation Office Agency's digitised database of property records is continually updated with property attribute information as part of ongoing work in connection with maintaining current council tax valuation lists.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties within the Wiltshire County Council area are recorded with each individual (a) dwelling house code and (b) value significant code, including each individual (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) number of floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [293105]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwellinghouse code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the minimum size is of an external building next to a domestic dwelling which can be classified as an outbuilding by the Valuation Office Agency for the purposes of its dwellinghouse coding for council tax valuations. [293321]

Barbara Follett: None, but an external structure must be value significant to be recorded as an outbuilding for the purposes of dwellinghouse coding.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the *(a)* eligibility and *(b)* ability of households to appeal against their council tax banding since May 1997. [293346]

Barbara Follett: There have been no changes to the eligibility of households to make proposals against their council tax bands.

Facilities to make a proposal became more accessible in June 2002 when the Valuation Office Agency introduced an application onto its website that allowed proposals to be made online.

Since 1 April 2008, taxpayers who have made a proposal and are unhappy with the decision of the Valuation Office Agency's listing officer can now appeal directly to an independent Valuation Tribunal.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government during what period of time a homeowner is able to appeal against the council tax band of their property. [293349]

Barbara Follett: There are limited circumstances in which a formal challenge (known as a 'proposal') will be accepted by the Valuation Office Agency as having been validly made, some of which are subject to a time limit. A person may, for example, make a proposal to alter the council tax banding of their property within six months of becoming the council tax payer. Further details of the circumstances and time limits are available from the Valuation Office Agency's website at:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/council_tax/can_i_appeal.htm

If, having made a valid proposal, a householder is unhappy with the decision made by the Valuation Office Agency's Listing Officer; an appeal can be made to an independent Valuation Tribunal within three months of that decision.

Anyone who has concerns that their property's council tax band is incorrect should contact the local listing officer who may amend the banding if there is sufficient evidence to justify it.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets his Department has been set for achieving value for money in its operations; and what progress has been made in meeting those targets. [293260]

Barbara Follett: The Department's value for money targets and its plans to achieve these are set out in the 2009 Department annual report (chapter 9, page 150). In summary, the comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07) set the Department a target to achieve £887 million vfm gains by March 2011, comprising of:

£734 million through the supply of new affordable housing;

£110 million from the Fire and Rescue Service;

£43 million by reducing the cost of running the Department.

Progress against these targets will be published in the Department's 2009 autumn performance report.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what *(a)* information and *(b)* datasets held on the Places Database (i) are not accessible to the public via the Places internet interface and (ii) are only accessible from within his Department; [292750]

(2) which datasets are contained on his Department's Places Database. [292754]

Mr. Ian Austin: All the data and information that are held within the Places Database are accessible to the public.

The information requested on each the datasets contained on the Places Database has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2007W, on departmental manpower, what the *(a)* job titles and *(b)* divisions are of each of the 59.5 full-time equivalent staff on fixed term contracts. [292861]

Barbara Follett: The following table sets out the division and grade of the full-time equivalent staff on fixed term contracts, according to our personnel records as requested.

							Grade
Location	*AO and equivalent*	*EO and equivalent*	*HEO and equivalent*	*SEO and equivalent*	*G7and equivalent*	*G6 and equivalent*	*SCS*
Communities Group	1	2	2	2	2	—	3
Corporate Delivery Group	—	2	4	—	—	—	—
Housing and Planning	1	9	7	8	3	2	1
HR & Business Change Group	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Local Government and Regeneration Group	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Regions and Communities	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Strategy and Performance	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
The Planning Inspectorate	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
On loan to other Government Departments	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

Departmental Procurement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 714W, on departmental procurement, what the cost was of procuring aerial photographs from Infoterra for the digital mapping project; and which public sector bodies are parties to the Pan-Government Agreement. [293028]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Pan-Government Agreement currently provides 106 central Government bodies (listed as follows) with geographic data. The data are used for a variety of purposes including environmental analysis and land registration. The aerial photography component is worth a maximum of £9.54 million +VAT in the first four years.

4NW
Advantage West Midlands
Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales
Arts Council of Wales
Association of North East Councils
Audit Commission
Boundary Commission for England (BCE)
Boundary Commission for Wales
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
British Council
British Geological Survey (BGS)
British Waterways
Cabinet Office
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
Charity Commission
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission
Church Commissioners
Coal Authority (The)
Commission for Rural Communities
Communities and Local Government
Consumer Council for Water
Consumer Focus
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Crown Estate (The)
Deer Commission for Scotland (DCS)
Defence Estates (DE)
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Department for Transport (DfT)
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
Department of Health (DH)
East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)
East Midlands Regional Assembly
East of England Development Agency
East of England Regional Assembly
Electoral Commission (The)
English Heritage
Environment Agency (EA)
Food Standards Agency (The)
Forensic Science Service
Forestry Commission
Government Offices for the English Regions (GON)
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
Health Protection Agency
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
High Speed Two
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Highways Agency
Historic Scotland
Home Office
Homes and Communities Agency
House of Commons Library
Information Centre for Health and Social Care
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Land Registry
Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Met Office
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice
National Assembly for Wales Parliamentary Service
National Audit Office
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit
National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)
Natural England
NHS Connecting for Health
NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service
North West Regional Development Agency
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Office of Communications (OFCOM)
Office of Government Commerce (OGC)
Oil and Pipelines Agency
Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)
One North East
Potato Council Ltd
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland(RCAHMS)
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)
Royal Parks (The)
Scottish Water
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)
South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
South East England Regional Assembly
South West Councils
South West Observatory
South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)
Sport England
Sports Council for Wales
Tenant Services Authority
The National Library of Wales
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Training and Development Agency for Schools
Transport Scotland
Tribunals Service
UK Border Agency
Valuation Office Agency (VOA)
Wales Centre for Health (WCfH)
Welsh Assembly Government
Welsh Health Estates
West Midlands Regional Assembly
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
Yorkshire Forward

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 901W, on departmental public expenditure, when he expects his Department's impact assessments to be published. [292978]

Barbara Follett: Departmental impact assessments will be published alongside Bills on their introduction to Parliament in the usual way after the Queen's Speech. The Department is continuing to work with lead Departments to identify costs for inclusion in individual impact assessments for each new Bill.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2007W, on departmental finance, what the breakdown by budgetary subheading is of his Department's other current spending for 2008-09. [293044]

Barbara Follett: The Department's other current expenditure in 2008-09 was £15.8 millions (page 50, line G Resources Accounts 2008-09). The breakdown of this is as follows:

	£ million
Pay	[1]3.4
Non-pay	[2]11.0
Non-cash	[3]1.4
Total	15.8

[1] Expenditure on outward secondees fully offset by income received (including in appropriation in aid column of accounts)
[2] Includes a range of compensation payments over the course of the year, most notably a £9.3 million payment following parliamentary commissioner for administration ruling on a planning case.
[3] Balance of provision for compensation payments to ex-PSA staff which are non discretionary.

Departmental Research

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research projects his Department has commissioned in the last 24 months. [292703]

Barbara Follett: Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our research database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor Departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes the subject, contractor and cost of each research commission.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 190-1W, on departmental visits abroad, which divisions of his Department sent civil servants to represent his Department and to provide expert advice on policy and subject issues in *(a)* North America, *(b)* Australia and (c) Asia in the 12 months to 31 March 2009. [292863]

Barbara Follett: Records on civil servants sent by divisions of the Communities and Local Government (CLG) to represent the Department and to provide expert advice on policy and subject issues in *(a)* North America, *(b)* Australia and *(c)* Asia in the 12 months to 31 March 2009 are not held centrally. As a consequence, this information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Fire Services: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary cost of employers' contributions to fire service pensions was *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* as a proportion of the total expenditure of fire and rescue authorities in (i) the most recent year for which figures are available and (ii) in 1997-98. [292592]

Barbara Follett: The Firefighters' Pension Schemes 1992 and 2006 are unfunded, pay-as-you-go schemes and under the financing arrangements in operation in 1997-98 pensions were paid from revenue: there were no employers' contributions.

New financing arrangements came into operation in April 2006 for English fire and rescue authorities, since when employers have paid a contribution of 21.3 per cent. of pensionable pay for members of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992 and 11 per cent. for members of the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006; in addition a charge is paid to cover the cost of any ill-health retirement.

In 2008-09, employers' contributions from English authorities totalled £203.477 million, which was 9.6 per cent. of total expenditure.

FlexSpace

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the outcome against objectives of the operation of the FlexSpace initiative in his Department's accommodation. [292728]

Barbara Follett: The planned reduction in Communities and Local Government's London estate from two buildings to one was achieved on 5 October 2009 with the final relocation of staff from Ashdown House to Eland House, thus enabling savings of £4.5 million per annum on reduced operating costs.

The success of the migration to flexible desking will be formally assessed in early 2010. A staff survey was carried out in January 2009 to establish a baseline for how staff in Communities and Local Government assessed their working environment. The same survey will be run in March 2010, some three months after the last moves to flexible desking, to measure the level of improvement. The survey will be supplemented by workshops, focus groups and individual interviews.

Government Office for London

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what functions and responsibilities in relation to housing are undertaken by the Government Office for London. [293002]

Mr. Ian Austin: Housing is the policy responsibility of Communities and Local Government, and GOL works to deliver a number of the Department's housing targets in London. GOL uses its local knowledge both to work with a range of partners, including the Mayor of London, The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and the London boroughs, to promote and improve understanding of the Government's housing policy and to influence the development of new housing initiatives.

GOL's housing role includes advising CLG Ministers on the Mayor's housing strategy and his recommendations on the allocation of funding from the regional housing pot in London, negotiating housing targets in London boroughs' local area agreements, and advising Ministers on housing growth issues in north London and Croydon.

In addition, GOL's planning work contributes to the housing agenda through its planning responsibilities. These include advising on and scrutinising the London Plan and Local Development Frameworks on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to ensure that provision is made for both affordable and market housing. GOL also has a national role in confirming planning, housing and regeneration compulsory purchase orders in England on behalf of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, which facilitates regeneration and housing schemes nationwide.

Greater London Authority: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates were made by his predecessor Department of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* staffing complement of the Greater London Authority prior to its creation. [293352]

Barbara Follett: The White Paper, "A Mayor and Assembly for London", which set out the Government's proposals for the creation of the Greater London Authority (GLA) in March 1998 provided an indicative estimate that the GLA would have around 250 staff and an annual cost of around £20 million a year.

This initial estimate was subsequently refined as the GLA's specific duties and responsibilities became clearer following the passage of the GLA Act 1999. The then Minister for Local Government announced in February 2000 that the GLA's first full year budget for 2000-01 would be £32.5 million, to be funded by grant and precept. This first budget assumed an indicative staff complement of 400 FTE staff for the GLA.

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate his Department has made of the average age of a first-time buyer of a domestic property. [292702]

Mr. Ian Austin: The average (median) age of a first time buyer of a residential property in the UK in August 2009 was 29 years old.

Source:

The Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment has been prepared in relation to the housing policies announced in the draft legislative programme. [292733]

Mr. Ian Austin: No housing policies were announced as part of the Draft Legislative Programme 2009-10.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which regions regional housing executives have been established. [292816]

Mr. Ian Austin: The only region with a body known as a regional housing executive is the West Midlands. This was established in September 2006. Other regions have similar bodies, with responsibilities including the preparation of a regional housing strategy and advising Ministers on bids for elements of the regional housing pot.

These bodies include representatives from local authorities (and are mainly chaired by a local authority member) as well as key stakeholders and the HCA.

Housing: Apprentices

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 14 September 2009 on apprenticeships and new housing, whether the apprenticeships with the projects' developers will be open to *(a)* EEA nationals, [illegible] A2 nationals and *(c)* A8 nationals. [292839]

Mr. Ian Austin: On 14 September 2009 my right hon. Friend the Housing Minster announced that all projects funded from future rounds of the housing pledge will be required to offer apprenticeships places. The aim of this policy is to increase opportunities for young and/or unemployed people who have been particularly hard hit by the current economic climate. Many of these projects will be carried out by registered social landlords who have a commitment to support their local communities and will be seeking to ensure maximum benefits for young and/or unemployed people living in the vicinity of their developments.

The new apprenticeships places will comply with current UK legislation.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential new build planning applications were granted in each of the last five years; and what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of residential new build sites with planning permission which have not been developed. [292694][1]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of planning applications for residential developments that have been granted for last five years is set out in the table:

Planning applications granted on residential developments in England[1]

	Applications granted on residential dwellings
2003-04	49,500
2004-05	56,600
2005-06	51,300
2006-07	49,500
2007-08	50,500

[1] England figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and include estimates for non-responding authorities.

Notes:

Information for 2008-09 to be published on 29 October 2009.

Source:

Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns

Information on whether planning applications have been developed or not is not held centrally.

Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much he expects the Homes and Communities Agency to pay to housing developers for completion of homes under the National Affordable Housing programme in each of the next three years. [292460]

John Healey: As set out in the Homes and Communities Agency's Corporate Plan, we are expecting to invest £3,248 million and £2,480 million in 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively through the Affordable Housing programme on either starts on site or completions. Budgets for 2011-12 will be subject to the outcome of the next spending review. Housing developers are eligible to submit bids for this grant funding.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 17 July 2009, on housing, how much funding will be transferred from *(a)* the Growth Fund, *(b)* the Decent Homes Arms Length Management Organisation Programme, *(c)* the Private Sector Renewal programme and *(d)* each of the Homes and Communities Agency programmes to contribute to the £1.5 billion of funding announced in the Building Britain's Future. [293035]

1.*[Official Report, 28 October 2009, Vol. 498, c. 3MC.]*

John Healey: To enable investment to build an extra 20,000 new affordable homes for rent and low cost sale, I have reduced £128 million from the Growth Fund and £75 million from the Private Sector Renewal Fund through 2009-11 and rescheduled £150 million from the Decent Homes ALMO programme. In addition, I have charged the Homes and Communities Agency with producing £183 million of the overall £1.5 billion package through more efficient and flexible management of its range of housing and regeneration programmes.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average grant per unit for a home sold under *(a)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct, *(c)* New Build HomeBuy, *(d)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(e)* OwnHome, *(f)* the First Time Buyers Initiative and *(g)* Social HomeBuy was in each of the last three years. [292480]

John Healey: The following is a breakdown of the average grant per unit for homes completed in the last three years:

Average grant per unit on completions for the last three years

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Rent to Homebuy	n/a	n/a	35,503
Homebuy Direct	n/a	n/a	n/a
New Build HomeBuy	12,676	17,752	24,173
MyChoice HomeBuy	n/a	n/a	35,795
OwnHome	n/a	n/a	27,577
FTBI	91,713	91,149	77,915
Social Homebuy[1]	11,413	12,179	10,464

[1] The grant relates to sales in the Housing Association sector only as grant is not given in the local authority sector.

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average purchase price for a home sold via *(a)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct, *(c)* New Build HomeBuy, *(d)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(e)* OwnHome, *(f)* the First Time Buyers Initiative and *(g)* Social HomeBuy was in each region in each of the last three years. [292481]

John Healey: The following tables show average regional market value of HomeBuy properties completed in the last three years.

2006-07

£

	Social HomeBuy	*New Build HomeBuy*	*First Time Buyers Initiative*
East Midlands	83,333	129,202	n/a
Eastern	n/a	174,470	n/a
London	221,125	229,374	197,297
North East	62,000	125,830	n/a
North West	90,500	129,706	n/a
South East	165,000	165,380	222,566
South West	n/a	150,841	n/a
West Midlands	n/a	140,823	172,143
Yorkshire and the Humber	78,333	104,995	n/a

2007-08

£

	Social HomeBuy	*New Build HomeBuy*	*First Time Buyers Initiative*
East Midlands	n/a	132,801	174,370
Eastern	143,500	173,207	n/a
London	151,672	219,574	236,573
North East	135,000	115,333	159,958
North West	183,449	132,781	127,732
South East	164,488	175,040	230,826
South West	n/a	152,171	200,642
West Midlands	153,375	135,135	138,104
Yorkshire and the Humber	n/a	116,030	161,520

2008-09

£

	Social HomeBuy	*New Build HomeBuy*	*First Time Buyers Initiative*	*My Choice*	*Own Home*
East Midlands	n/a	141,341	130,747	123,134	139,651
Eastern	192,500	158,578	210,129	162,854	173,112
London	205,020	226,977	211,702	259,098	217,958
North East	77,571	113,813	130,141	118,956	130,970
North West	80,207	128,114	130,498	130,079	139,687
South East	180,150	181,285	195,949	171,414	181,717
South West	n/a	161,091	175,575	151,598	168,713
West Midlands	113,542	114,302	131,166	128,685	141,015
Yorkshire and the Humber	130,000	121,344	138,049	122,830	142,275

There were no Rent to HomeBuy sales recorded in 2008-09. New Build HomeBuy and Social HomeBuy purchasers are able to purchase a share of the property value from 25 per cent. upwards.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households renting under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme have subsequently acquired a share in their home. [292482]

John Healey: The Rent to HomeBuy scheme was introduced in July 2008 to help eligible households benefit from an affordable rent while they save for a deposit for a pre-specified period (up to five years). There were no sales returns from registered social landlords recorded on the CORE (continuous recording) database held by the Tenants Services Authority as at 31 March 2009.

Housing: Public Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the central Government expenditure on housing was in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* real terms in each year since 1996-97. [292635]

Barbara Follett: Data on public expenditure by function are published annually in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses". The latest edition was published in June 2009 (Cm 7630) and includes data from financial year 1987-88 up to and including 2008-09.

Housing: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what obligations local authorities have to *(a)* undertake a private sector housing condition survey and *(b)* provide resulting information to his Department; [292554]

(2) what the timetable is for the completion of the latest round of private sector housing condition surveys. [292878]

Mr. Ian Austin: All local authorities are expected to have in place a local housing strategy. This provides an analysis of the housing needs of an area, covering housing across all tenures and provides a framework for ensuring that all parties act in a co-ordinated way to tackle housing problems. It is in local authority's interests to collect information across all housing tenures through housing condition surveys, including those privately owned, to ensure it has a plan in place for its current and future housing needs for all local residents. The Government do not stipulate either the precise detail of local housing condition surveys, the timetable of these or that local authorities share the information collected with Communities and Local Government. It is for local authorities to decide the best way to take this forward.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency takes into account the potential for planning permission, where such permission has not been explicitly granted, when its district valuer arm values homes for right to buy purposes. [292552]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Office Agency reflects any realistic potential for further development when valuing dwellings for right to buy purposes. This is required under the statutory basis of valuation, as contained within section 127 Housing Act 1985 and is in full accordance with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' code of practice, "Valuations for Right to Buy, Right to Acquire and Equity Sharing of Social Housing".

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings in England have been assigned the notification code CL26 by the Valuation Office Agency in each year since 2006-07. [292731]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties, in England, reviewed and cleared with notification change code CL26 is as follows.

	Number
2006-07	39,017
2007-08	63,233
2008-09	51,068

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, on housing: valuation, what method the Valuation Office Agency uses to establish how much a permanent greenhouse is worth. [293024]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Office Agency uses the comparison method to value domestic property for council tax purposes, whatever features it may have. Individual items would not be considered in isolation but by reference to the effect they have on the value of the whole.

Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Wales Conference

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech, presentation and handouts made by the representative of the Valuation Tribunal Service at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Wales conference held in Bournemouth on 30 September 2009. [292879]

Barbara Follett: I have placed in the Library a copy of the presentation given by Anne Galbraith OBE, Chairman of the Valuation Tribunal Service, entitled "The Modern Appeals Service" given at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation's Annual conference in Bournemouth on 30 November 2009.

Land: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which organisations have subscribed to the new Pan-Government Agreement on geographical information; [292752]

(2) which public sector organisations have purchased data from the colour infra-red product through the new Pan-Government Agreement. [292753]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following government organisations are members of the PGA.

Organisations annotated with * have licensed aerial photography and therefore have access to the colour infra-red product.

4NW
Advantage West Midlands*
Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales*
Arts Council of Wales*
Association of North East Councils
Audit Commission
Boundary Commission for England (BCE)
Boundary Commission for Wales
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)*
British Council
British Geological Survey (BGS)
British Waterways*
Cabinet Office
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
Charity Commission
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission
Church Commissioners*
Coal Authority (The)
Commission for Rural Communities

Communities and Local Government*
Consumer Council for Water
Consumer Focus
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)*
Crown Estate (The)*
Deer Commission for Scotland (DCS)*
Defence Estates (DE)*
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)*
Department for Transport (DfT)
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC)
Department of Health (DH)*
East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)*
East Midlands Regional Assembly
East of England Development Agency*
East of England Regional Assembly*
Electoral Commission (The)*
English Heritage*
Environment Agency (EA)*
Food Standards Agency (The)
Forensic Science Service
Forestry Commission
Government Offices for the English Regions (GON)
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
Health Protection Agency*
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)*
High Speed Two*
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales*
Highways Agency
Historic Scotland*
Home Office
Homes and Communities Agency*
House of Commons Library
Information Centre for Health and Social Care
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Land Registry
Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales*
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation*
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Met Office
Ministry of Defence*
Ministry of Justice
National Assembly for Wales Parliamentary Service*
National Audit Office
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit
National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)*
Natural England*
NHS Connecting for Health
NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service
North West Regional Development Agency*
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Office for National Statistics (ONS)*
Office of Communications (Ofcom)
Office of Government Commerce (OGC)*
Oil and Pipelines Agency*
Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)*
One North East
Potato Council Ltd*
Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments Scotland (RCAHMS)*
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)*
Royal Parks (The)*
Scottish Water*
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)*
South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
South East England Regional Assembly
South West Councils
South West Observatory
South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)
Sport England*
Sports Council for Wales*
Tenant Services Authority
The National Library of Wales*
Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Training and Development Agency for Schools
Transport Scotland*
Tribunals Service
UK Border Agency
Valuation Office Agency (VOA)
Wales Centre for Health (WCfH)*
Welsh Assembly Government*
Welsh Health Estates*
West Midlands Regional Assembly
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
Yorkshire Forward*

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 487-8W, on land: databases, what aerial and satellite photography members of the Pan-Government Agreement will have access to; and what associated photography products are provided by *(a)* Ordnance Survey, *(b)* Landmark and *(c)* Dotted Eyes. [292856]

Mr. Ian Austin: Members of the Pan-Government Agreement have access to a range of data from three suppliers (Landmark-Dotted Eyes, Next Perspectives and Ordnance Survey). The Next Perspectives consortium provides aerial photography (25 cm resolution colour imagery; colour infra-red data); and height data (contour and digital terrain models). Satellite data are not included.

There are no other suppliers of aerial photography products under the PGA. Ordnance Survey provides a range of products including large, medium and small scale data; transport; boundaries; address and gazetteer data. The Landmark-Dotted Eyes consortium supplies the PGA with postcodes and points of interest data.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on their implementation of Financial Reporting Standard 12. [292737]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not issued any guidance on Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 12. The application of FRS 12 to local authorities is governed by the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: A Statement of Recommended Practice', published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. This code is identified as a proper practice in relation to the accounts of local authorities by regulation 31 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No 3146).

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the operation of their financial reserves. [292738]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not issued guidance to local authorities on the operation of their financial reserves. Decisions on the level of reserves are a matter for local authorities. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publish professional guidance on the establishment and maintenance of local authority reserves.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 29 September 2009, on council efficiency, which local authorities reported efficiency savings in relation to *(a)* adopting alternate weekly refuse collections and *(b)* introducing wheeled refuse containers. [293023]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not collect information from councils on the value of efficiencies broken down by individual service sectors. Councils are required to report only the total net value of ongoing cash-releasing value for money gains that have impacted since the start of the 2008-09 financial year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1510W, on national insurance contributions: local authorities, whether the planned additional cost of national insurance contributions for local authorities will be treated as a new burden for the purposes of determining local authority grant. [293025]

Barbara Follett: The increase in national insurance contributions for employers announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 applies to all employers and does not impact disproportionately upon local authorities. Consequently, the new burdens doctrine does not apply.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of the International Financial Reporting Standard to local government on *(a)* staff leave costs in local government and *(b)* other local government costs. [293322]

Barbara Follett: The Department is currently assessing the financial implications of the introduction for local government of the International Financial Reporting Standards in financial year 2010-11. We are considering the effects in relation to staff leave costs as well as other costs and propose to consult local authorities shortly.

Local Government: Accountability

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities have passed *(a)* delivery of and *(b)* ownership of services in respect of their duty to involve to social enterprises; and whether any such transfer has also involved a transfer of premises; [292646]

(2) what steps he is taking to assess the effectiveness of *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other public agencies in discharging their obligations in respect of their (i) duty to promote democracy and (ii) duty to involve; [292647]

(3) what information his Department holds on those local authorities which have not yet put in place mechanisms in respect of their duty to *(a)* involve and *(b)* promote democracy obligations; and if he will make a statement; [292649]

(4) what information his Department holds on whether local authorities and other public agencies are engaging representatives of vulnerable persons as required under the provisions of the 7. [292650]

Barbara Follett: The duty to promote democracy is included in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill currently in Parliament. It is not yet, therefore, a statutory duty.

In terms of the duty to involve, it is principally for local authorities and relevant public bodies to which this currently applies to assess for themselves the effectiveness of when and how they involve others, and how this improves services and community cohesion in an area. My Department does not collate and hold detailed information on how individual authorities are implementing the duty to involve, including any transfers of services to social enterprises. Under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment, the independent inspectorate of local services will be considering how well local authorities and partners understand and respond to the needs and aspirations of local people. The first set of CAA reports are due to be published on 10 December.

Inspectorates have made it clear that they will pay particular attention in their assessments to people whose personal circumstances present a risk to themselves or to others. They will report clearly where their needs are not being met or where they have concerns about them being met in future, allowing for the different levels of risk and urgency associated with such circumstances.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* local authorities and other public bodies and *(b)* other organisations in respect of their (i) duty to involve and (ii) duty to promote democracy obligations over the next three years. [292648]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not allocated additional funding for the duty to involve. Involving and consulting local people is not a new task. Better engagement of local people should help public bodies to deliver better and more efficient local services. It is reasonable to expect authorities to factor in value for money when considering the appropriate level of engagement.

The duty to promote democracy is included in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill currently in Parliament. It is not yet, therefore, a statutory duty. Final decisions about funding allocations have not yet been made.

Local Government: Barnet

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has provided to the London borough of Barnet to test behavioural economics to date. [292883]

Barbara Follett: The Department gave £350,000 to the London borough of Barnet in 2008-09 for pilot projects on behavioural change on recycling.

Local Government: Influenza

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's pandemic influenza contingency plan. [291151]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the pandemic influenza contingency plan will be placed in the Library of the House.

Met Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department provides funding to the Met Office. [292863]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government provides funding to the Met Office for the provision of the web-based FireMet service. FireMet is a weather system designed to provide the Fire and Rescue Service with the latest weather information to help them identify a safe approach when dealing with a major incident.

Funding provided to date is as follows and covers costs associated with the development of the FireMet system, associated training and operational delivery of the service.

2006-07: £21,385

2007-08: £36,010

2008-09: £53,716

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been *(a)* distributed to each local authority through the Preventing Repossession Revenue Grant and *(b)* subsequently spent by each authority; how many people applied for grants; how many grants were issued in the ranges (i) £0 - £249, (ii) £250 - £499, (iii) £500 - £999, (iv) £1,000 - £1,999, (v) £2,000 - £2,999, (vi) £3,000 - £3,999, (vii) £4,000 - £4,999 and (viii) £5,000 or more; what assessment he has made of the effect of the scheme in preventing repossession or eviction in each year since the grant's inception; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the scheme in the next two years. [292082]

John Healey: The £20 million Preventing Repossessions Fund was announced by the Chancellor in the Budget to enable local authorities to offer small loans up to a maximum value of £5,000 to families at risk of homelessness through repossession or eviction. A list of allocations made in June 2009 to individual local authorities for 2009-10 has been placed in the House Library. Information about the use councils have made of this grant and number of households who have received a payment from the fund will be published later this year.

The fund forms part of the range of assistance that has been put in place at every stage to help struggling households. It provides additional support to local authorities in their work to prevent repossessions and eviction in difficult cases where households may have multiple debts or negative equity.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information was used to establish the areas where advertising for the Mortgage Help campaign was to be concentrated; and if he will make a statement. [292477]

John Healey: 22 priority areas were identified for additional targeting as part of the Mortgage Help campaign to help prevent repossessions by encouraging concerned homeowners to seek help and advice. These areas were identified as facing a greater risk of increased repossessions using labour market data and mortgage possession data.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual budget for the Mortgage Help campaign is; and how much is expected to be spent on *(a)* campaign advertising and *(b)* the campaign's website in 2009-10. [292478]

John Healey: In the financial year 2009-10 the total allocated budget for the Mortgage Help campaign is £1.855 million. The campaign is still running, and so spend allocations for different aspects of the campaign have not yet been finalised. The Department will publish a breakdown of the actual campaign spend at the time of its next annual report.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 8 September 2009 on support for homeowners, what criteria were used to select the 22 hotspot areas; and what account was taken of mortgage repossession figures held by the Ministry of Justice in that selection. [293021]

John Healey: 22 priority areas were identified for additional targeting as part of the Mortgage Help campaign to help prevent repossessions by encouraging concerned homeowners to seek help and advice. These areas were identified as facing a greater risk of increased repossessions using labour market data and mortgage possession data.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statistics *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency are compiling on the level of take-up of deferred business rates under his Department's scheme to allow partial deferral of 2009-10 increases. [292746]

Barbara Follett: On *(a)*, the Department is planning to collect figures on the total number of deferrals granted and the total amount deferred for each local billing authority.

On *(b)*, the Valuation Office Agency does not collect these data.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to reduce average business rate bills in April 2010 if retail price index inflation is negative in September 2009. [292884]

Barbara Follett: Under schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 the increases in the business rates multipliers each year are capped by the previous September's RPI. Therefore the September 2009 RPI of -1.4 per cent. will exert a downward pressure on the multipliers and 2010-11 rates bills. Under the same legislation, the multipliers will also be adjusted to ensure that the overall tax yield does not increase as a result of the 2010 revaluation. The Government have no plans to amend the way that the multipliers are calculated.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessments have been made of the effects of the introduction of the new regime of empty property business rates to date. [293368]

Barbara Follett: An Impact Assessment was published with the Explanatory Memorandum to the Non-Domestic Ratings (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2009. It may be viewed on the Office of Public Sector Information website at the following address:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20090353_en.pdf

Non-Domestic Rates: Advertising

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ludlow of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2288W, on the Valuation Office Agency: publications, whether an advertising station which is not let out, not reserved and not displaying any image is eligible for empty property rate relief if its rateable value is under the empty property rate relief threshold. [293031]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2065-066W.

Non-Domestic Rates: Diplomatic Missions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 547W, on diplomatic missions, if he will allow local authorities to withdraw services from diplomatic missions which do not pay the national non-domestic rates billed to them. [292977]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities are under statutory obligations to provide certain services in their areas and cannot therefore withdraw such services where a diplomatic mission fails to pay the element of its business rates bill for which it is responsible.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much net revenue has been raised from the new regime of empty property business rates in each year since their introduction. [292589]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities reported that they granted £487 million of empty property relief in 2008-09 and estimate that in 2009-10 they will grant empty property relief of £570 million.

These data are available in the National non-domestic rates statistics releases that are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/nondomesticrates/

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to introduce anti-avoidance measures following the lowering of the threshold on empty property business rates in April 2010. [292590]

Barbara Follett: The Government have no plans to introduce any empty property rates anti-avoidance measures at this time.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have responded to his Department's information-gathering exercise on empty property business rates. [292628]

Barbara Follett: All 354 billing authorities in existence as of 31 March 2009 provided data on *(a)* the numbers of empty properties as of 31 March 2009 and *(b)* of those, the number of empty properties with a rateable value of less than £15,000. The data were provided on the billing authority's annual NNDR3 return.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations have responded to his Department's consultation on modernising empty property relief. [292710]

Barbara Follett: A list of respondents to the consultation is contained in the summary of responses document at Annex A. The summary can be found at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/meprresponse

A copy of the document has already been placed in the Library of the House.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* yacht clubs and *(b)* fishing companies located within the curtilages of ports are liable to pay business rates on a retrospective basis following the Valuation Office Agency's review of port valuations. [292817]

Barbara Follett: The Government do not hold information on the identity of ratepayers liable for business rates. A liable party for business rates will have paramount control of a property. Whether a yacht club or a fishing company has paramount control of a property within the curtilage of a port will depend on the facts of each case. If there is paramount control then it would warrant a separate assessment and if they were not previously assessed then they would have been affected by the review.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many assessments of individual hereditaments there have been by the Valuation Office Agency to date in relation to the new regime of business rates on ports; and how many of these have subsequently been corrected or subjected to an appeal. [292875]

Barbara Follett: The assessment of separate occupations is not new and was not introduced by the Valuation Office Agency's review of ports. Over 1,600 properties within the 45 ports in England were separately assessed immediately prior to the completion of the review of each port. As at 8 July 2009 the number of properties within ports that are separately assessed with an effective date of 1 April 2005 is 2,207, a net increase of around 600 compared to the position immediately prior to the review of each port.

As at 9 September, the Valuation Office Agency has applied fast track arrangements to 703 appeals made by port businesses, 355 of which relate to new business rating assessments with an effective date of 1 April 2005.

Of the 355 appeals, 154 have been settled, 48 by agreement and 106 withdrawn. Where agreement has been reached this has resulted in a reduction in the rateable value.

Non-Domestic Rates: Take-Away Food

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether operators of mobile food vending vans are liable for the payment of business rates. [292757]

Barbara Follett: Mobile food vending vans are not rateable. The sites they park on and any operational base from which they work may have a liability for rates.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the 2010 business rates revaluation; and when he expects bills reflecting the revaluation to be issued to those liable for business rates. [294101]

Barbara Follett: The 2010 rating list will come into force on 1 April 2010. Regulations implementing the 2010 transitional arrangements will be made before the end of December 2009 and the small business non-domestic multiplier and the national non-domestic multiplier will be confirmed in the new year after Parliament approves the Local Government Finance Report. The issuing of rates bills is a matter for Billing Authorities, but we expect that rate bills for 2010-11 will be issued by Billing Authorities during March 2010.

Official Hospitality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 203W, on official hospitality, if he will place in the Library a copy of each page of his Department's staff handbook relating to guidance on the declaration of gifts, hospitality and financial interests. [292865]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the pages of the Department's staff handbook relating to guidance on the declaration of gifts, hospitality and financial interests will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Oxford Economic Forecasting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* research and *(b)* reports have been commissioned from Oxford Economic Forecasting by his Department and its agencies in the last 36 months. [292813]

Barbara Follett: Details of research projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors are available from our Research Database (RD) at:

http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk/

The database provides information on projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government and predecessor departments going back to 30 November 2001. This includes the subject, contractor and cost of each research commission.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to *(a)* councillors and *(b)* local planning authorities on consideration to be given to issues of (i) predisposition and (ii) predetermination in determining the outcome of planning applications. [292712]

Mr. Ian Austin: Predisposition and predetermination in relation to the conduct of councillors and officers fall within the wider consideration of probity.

The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a requirement for each local authority to adopt a code of conduct for councillors, based on the Model Code of Conduct set by the Government and endorsed by Parliament. All councillors have to give a written undertaking to observe the code, or cease to be a member of the authority. The current Model Code, introduced in 2007, sets new rules on personal and prejudicial interests. The Code may be viewed at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/uksi_20071159_en_1

The Standards Board for England, the strategic regulator for local authority standards committees and the body which works with councillors and conduct regime practitioners, issues guidance on the code of conduct. The Standards Board has also issued a paper on predisposition, predetermination and bias.

The Department has not issued any guidance for local authority employees. Local authority employees' behaviour regarding the consideration of planning applications would be determined by their terms and conditions of employment. In addition, the employing authority may have a code of conduct for employees addressing this issue. The Local Government Association has issued guidance in "Probity in Planning: The Role of Councillors and Officers - Revised Guidance Note on Good Planning Practice for Councillors and Officers Dealing With Planning Matters". This can be viewed at:

http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/1940404

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what types of planning application were not considered by local planning authorities, prior to the establishment of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [292899]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 are made to the relevant local planning authority. In London, the Mayor has powers to take certain planning decisions. The Secretary of State deals with appeals and projects called in for determination.

Nationally significant infrastructure projects will in future be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission which will in general replace consents granted by Ministers under a range of different Acts such as the Highways Act 1980, Electricity Act 1989 and Transport and Works Act 1992.

Planning Permission: Agriculture

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1339W, on planning: agriculture, what changes there have been to planning policy on the protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land since October 2007; and whether the new Planning Policy Statement 4 will include further changes to the regime. [293224]

Mr. Ian Austin: The have been no changes to planning policy on the protection of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land since October 2007. The Government's planning policy on BMV agricultural land is set out in Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7): "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" published in August 2004.

The new Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4): Planning for Prosperous Economies will not include any policies on BMV agricultural land. The relevant policies in PPS7 will continue to apply.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what discretion local authorities have in determining the fees payable by applicants seeking to extend existing planning consents for up to three years from 1 October 2009; [293036]

(2) what statutory level of fees is payable by applicants seeking to extend existing planning consents by up to three years from 1 October 2009; [293037]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the merits of setting at £500 the fee charged by local authorities applying for an extension to existing planning permissions for up to three years from 1 October 2009. [293038]

Mr. Ian Austin: Fees are currently set through The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) Regulations 1989 as amended by The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008. Local authorities are not able to apply discretion to the regulations. Until the fees regulations are further amended later this year, the level of fee payable for an application to extend the time limits for implementation of an existing planning permission is as it would be for a new application for the same development. When the fees regulations are amended, a reduced fee level will be payable. Proposed fee levels, which are currently under consideration, are for £500 for a major development, £50 for a householder application and £170 for any other application. The fee levels will be subject to parliamentary debates in both Houses before coming into force.

Planning Permission: Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether section 51 of Planning Policy Statement 3 on parking overrides the maximum parking standards for residential development contained in the 2001 edition of Planning Policy Guidance 13 on Transport; [292546]

(2) what changes his Department and its predecessors have made to *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum parking standards in planning guidance since 2001; [292621]

(3) whether his Department has set any targets to reduce car ownership through the application of planning policy; [292692]

(4) whether his Department has issued any recent guidance to local planning authorities on the grant of planning permission for the construction of new garages for purposes other than the storage of vehicles; [292699]

(5) whether an impact assessment was produced to accompany *(a)* the 2000 edition of PPG3 and *(b)* the 2001 edition of PPG13; [292808]

(6) if he will make it his policy to amend planning policy guidance to abolish maximum parking standards. [292824]

Mr. Ian Austin: PPS3 paragraph 51 does not override PPG13. Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS 3) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (PPG 13) should be read together.

The original Planning Policy Guidance Note 3: Housing (2000) contained a reference to minimum parking for residential units of 1.5 spaces per unit. This policy was removed in PPS 3 (2006). PPG 13 makes it clear that there should be no minimum parking standards for development, other than for disabled people. The maximum car parking standards in PPG 13 remain unchanged since 2001. The requirement for maximum standards continues in the current draft Planning Policy Statement 4:Planning for Prosperous Economies.

The Government have not set any targets to reduce car ownership through planning policy.

A specific regulatory impact assessment was not prepared for the 2001 edition of PPG 13. The sustainable site location policies set out in PPG 13 are repeated in other Planning Policy Statements (including 1, 3 and draft PPS 4) which do have impact assessments. The draft PPS 4 consultation impact assessment considers non-residential parking policy issues. The impact assessment is part of the consultation document available on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/
planningandbuilding/pdf/consultationeconomicpps.pdf

A regulatory impact assessment was produced for PPS 3, which superseded PPG 3, and is available on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/
planningandbuilding/pps3ria

This impact assessment considers residential parking policy issues.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning applications the Planning Inspectorate has allowed at appeal in the last 12 months where a condition of granting the application included a requirement that the garage accommodation which formed part of the application be kept available for the parking of vehicles at all times. [292697]

Mr. Ian Austin: Data in relation to conditions imposed as a result of planning appeals that have been allowed are not held centrally by the Planning Inspectorate and could be recovered only at disproportionate cost.

Public Houses: Postal Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public houses have post offices facilities within them, according to rating list records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [293366]

Barbara Follett: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Works Loan Board

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to review the costs to local authorities of making early repayments to the Public Works Loan Board. [292874]

Barbara Follett: The UK Debt Management Office, together with the Public Works Loan Board and HM Treasury is currently reviewing the frequency with which fixed interest rates are set. The consultation document is available on the Debt Management Office website at:

http://www.dmo.gov.uk/
documentview.aspx?docname=PWLB/
condoc20090928.pdf&page=

Quirk Review

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations of the Quirk Review have *(a)* been and *(b)* not been implemented. [292999]

Barbara Follett: "Making Assets Work", the Quirk Review of Community Management and Ownership of Public Assets, was published in May 2007. The Government accepted its recommendations and published their response to the Quirk Review, "Opening the Transfer Window". Action has been taken to implement all the recommendations and has included a widespread promotional campaign; publishing guidance on managing risks in asset transfer; updating local authority asset management guidance; and the Advancing Assets demonstration programme to support local authority and community partners in asset transfer. The Advancing Assets programme is continuing and a dedicated Asset Transfer Unit has been established to provide independent guidance, advice and support on asset transfer.

Rates and Rating

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effects of the rating system for on-sale premises on their competitive position in relation to supermarkets; and if he will make a statement. [293651]

Barbara Follett: We have made no assessment of the effects of the rating system on public houses.

Recycling

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the treatment of *(a)* local authority collection of garden waste and *(b)* home composting of garden waste for the purposes of assessing progress towards local authority recycling targets. [292804]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities in England no longer have centrally imposed statutory targets on recycling and composting—this is consistent with Government policy to give local areas more freedom and flexibility on how they deliver national objectives.

The Government believe local authorities are better placed to make decisions on the best waste management strategy for their local area, so it does not direct or interfere in the decisions they make.

DEFRA has not provided any specific guidance but provides a range of targeted support to help local authorities deliver their targets through bodies such as the Waste Implementation Programme and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

WRAP has also been working on a model to calculate how much waste is diverted from landfill via home composting. The model, once complete, could help councils include home composting in targets to divert biodegradable municipal waste from landfill under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

Regional Planning and Development: Green Belt

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which locations the draft regional spatial strategies submitted to his Department recommend a review of green belt protection. [292735]

Mr. Ian Austin: A Regional Spatial Strategy, whether in draft or in its final form issued by the Secretary State, would not affect the level of protection afforded to Green Belt. This is set out in National Planning Policy. Policies in Regional Spatial Strategies may recommend that, in a particular area, there should be a review of land designated as green belt.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to undertake new strategic environmental assessments on the South East Regional Spatial Strategy. [292802]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are currently a number of legal challenges to the south-east regional spatial strategy which relate to the adequacy of the strategic environmental assessment that was undertaken and we are awaiting the outcome of court proceedings.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what 39 data items are recorded for an average property on the National Register of Social Housing. [292872]

Mr. Ian Austin: The National Register of Social Housing records, on average, 39 data items for each dwelling. The following are the 39 most-recorded data items, as of 6 October 2009.

NROSH data item description:

Local Authority Location of Dwelling
National Land and Property Gazetteer Unique Property Reference Number
Data provider's Property Reference Number
Supporting People Administering Authority Reference Number
Confirmation of ownership
Code of the Owner
Confirmation of manager
Data provider's estate name
Data provider's estate reference number
Data provider's block or scheme name
Data provider's block or scheme reference number
Social Rented Housing Categories
Self contained or not self contained
Furnished or unfurnished
Valuation
Cloned valuation
Date of valuation
Type of dwelling
Form of structure
Number of floors in the dwelling
Floor in the block on which the dwelling is located
Purpose built or converted
Year built
Year built is estimate
Type of Construction
Number of private living rooms
Number of bedrooms
Number of bed spaces
Basis for SAP Rating
Decent Homes Standard date of inspection
Standard of thermal efficiency
Dates occupied
Dates vacated
Choice based lettings
Tenure Type
Rent payments per year
Rent
Target rent
Helpline

Social Rented Housing: Foreigners

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of social housing was allocated between 2002 and 2007 to tenants who were not born in the United Kingdom. [293262]

Mr. Ian Austin: This information is not available.

Information on the number of social housing lettings is collected through the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). Place of birth is not recorded.

For estimates of allocations by nationality, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 1 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1844W.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated for achievement of the Decent Homes standard in each of the next three years. [292876]

Mr. Ian Austin: Decisions on future years' funding for Decent Homes have not yet been taken.

Solution Establishment Workshop

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* nature of the Solution Establishment Workshop (SEW) set up under FireControl is; when SEW commenced work; what functions SEW has been assigned; when SEW is expected to complete its work; and whether he expects outcomes from the SEW exercise to be published. [289210]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The purpose of the FireControl Solution Establishment Workshops (SEWs) is to bring together key partners in the Fire and Rescue Service, the Department and EADS to design and develop the IT system. The SEWs will ensure that the system meets mandatory requirements and the operational needs of the users, and builds on the work completed so far in order to deliver an effective, resilient network. The SEWs build on an extensive series of technical workshops which have taken place since the project was awarded in 2007.

SEWs began work on 22 June 2009 and are scheduled to complete their work in November 2009. The outcomes from the SEW exercise will be communicated to key stakeholders.

Surrey Police: Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what outturn total Band D council tax bill was levied in each billing authority in Surrey in 2009-10 following the capping of Surrey Police Authority. [292545]

Barbara Follett: Details of the average band D council tax payable in 2009-10 in each billing authority in Surrey following the designation of the Surrey police authority are shown in the table.

	£
Elmbridge	1,483
Epsom and Ewell	1,442
Guildford	1,447
Mole Valley	1,438
Reigate and Banstead	1,482
Runnymede	1,416
Spelthorne	1,450
Surrey Heath	1,482
Tandridge	1,484
Waverley	1,482
Woking	1,483

The information is also available in table 6 of the statistical release "Council Tax levels set by local authorities in England 2009-10 (Revised)" that was published on the Communities and Local Government website on 30 July and is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistis/counciltax/rates/

Sustainable Communities Act 2007

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable his Department has set for the *(a)* consideration and *(b)* approval of local authority proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [292822]

Barbara Follett: The timetable for the consideration and approval of local authority proposals made under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 will be determined by the number and complexity of proposals shortlisted by the selector.

Wind Power: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's guidance and methodology for valuing wind turbines; and what criteria apply to the inclusion of power generation in the *(a)* national and *(b)* local rating list. [292617]

Barbara Follett: The guidance and methodology for valuing wind turbines for rating purposes is set out in the VOA Rating Manual, which can be found on the VOA website:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/rating_manual/vol5/sect530/frame.htm

Since April 2000 power generators have appeared in local rating lists. The identity of the occupier, the purpose of occupation and the extent of property occupied is generally straightforward and normally within a small geographical area and a single billing authority.

The central rating list contains network properties such as the Transco gas networks and the clean water supply companies. These hereditaments cover large areas and numerous administrative boundaries.

Working Conditions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidelines given to staff of his Department on the flexi-desk environment in operation in his Department. [292755]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government adopted a core brief for all staff moving to flexible desking and applied small modifications to this if a Directorate should have any particular needs.

Briefings material issued to the Human Resources Directorate have been lodged in the Library of the House as an example.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress in establishing a casino in each of the local authority areas where *(a)* a large and *(b)* a small casino is permitted. [293853]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Officials attend regular meetings with the 16 licensing authorities permitted to issue large and small casino premises licences in order to provide advice and support where it is requested by them. It remains up to the individual licensing authorities to decide when to announce their process and timetable for applications for the new premises licences.

Horse Racing: Betting

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent progress has been made in relation to the modernisation of the Horse Race Betting Levy; what progress he expects to be made in the next three months; and if he will make a statement. [293749]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The recently ratified 49th Levy scheme will bring some much needed stability and certainty for the racing and bookmaking industries. They must now build on this momentum to work together for the benefit of racing and come to their own agreements rather than relying on Government to adjudicate. I am very pleased Paul Lee has taken on the role of Levy Board chair as I believe he will provide the kind of leadership needed to proceed with modernising the Levy. I am meeting him shortly and look forward to hearing his thoughts on the next steps.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent representations he has received from organisations interested in buying the Tote; and if he will make a statement; [293745]

(2) how much his Department has spent on consultancy fees in relation to the sale of the Tote; how much he expects to spend on such fees; and if he will make a statement; [293746]

(3) whether he plans to guarantee the jobs of Tote staff on the sale of the Tote; and if he will make a statement; [293747]

(4) if he will take steps to ensure that the internet services provided by the Tote are not transferred abroad on the sale of the Tote; and if he will make a statement. [293748]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The arrangements for the sale of the Tote are yet to be determined and discussions are continuing with all the relevant parties. The present intention is that the sale process itself will not start until summer 2010 with a latest completion date of March 2011. We expect to be able to give further details on the process in the next few months.

The Government's position remains that we will honour our commitment to return half of the net proceeds of any market sale to racing subject to the requirements of European state aid and competition rules. I am unable to disclose commercially confidential or sensitive information about the valuation of the tote or prospective Government payments to agents.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when *(a)* he and *(b)* the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Bradford South, were first informed of the recent announcement of proposals for the sale of the Tote. [293845]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Discussions on possible plans to realise the full value of various assets, including the Tote, have been taking place over the last few weeks. A decision in principle was made by Ministers to include the Tote in the list of assets to be sold on 23 September 2009, subject to agreement by colleagues.

Licensing Laws: Languages

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of languages in which tests related to obtaining a personal licence for the retail sale of alcohol are administered. [293854]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's criteria for accredited personal licence course providers do not stipulate that examinations must be taken in languages other than English. Course providers are free to make a commercial decision to allow the examination to be taken in other languages if there is a demand for such a service.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect jobs in the supply chain which would be created as a result of the construction of the two proposed new aircraft carriers; what information his Department holds on the number of such jobs which would be created in each constituency; and if he will make a statement. [293221]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is anticipated that work on the Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers will create or sustain between 7-8000 jobs at the Tier 1 shipyards in Glasgow, Rosyth, Portsmouth and Devon. We do not hold information relating to the number of indirect jobs or the breakdown of jobs in each constituency. Throughout the supply chain we expect companies to employ local people thereby boosting local economies across the UK.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what green technologies have been installed in the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [293299]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All Service family accommodation built in the last 15 years and all new single living accommodation in Cyprus includes green technology in the form of solar panels to provide supplementary heating of hot water. These panels are also fitted into older properties where it is cost effective to do so.

A number of other environmental initiatives are in place within the Sovereign Base Area, including the installation of showers in all new-builds to conserve water, designing buildings to maximise thermal efficiency thereby minimising the requirement for air conditioning, and a recycling service.

Israel: Military Aid

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what official links there are between UK and Israeli armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [293011]

Bill Rammell: Our defence relationship with Israel is in line with HMG's policy in support of the Middle East Peace Process of having a balanced relationship with the Israelis and the Palestinians. We periodically have formal strategic level dialogue and engagement with Israeli military and civilian defence staff counterparts, including some direct contact in support of our equipment procurement programmes.

Radar: Wind Power

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 797W, on radar: wind power, how many pre-planning applications his Department had objected to on the grounds of interference with defence equipment on the latest date for which figures are available; how many such applications related to sites in Scotland; and how many such applications in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland were subsequently withdrawn. [293446]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Between January 2006 and 7 October 2009, the Ministry of Defence has been consulted on 3,502 pre-planning applications and has expressed concerns to 1,054 of the pre-planning applications on the grounds of interference with defence equipment and or operations. Of those concerns, 233 are related to onshore sites in Scotland. Information appertaining to applications that have been withdrawn is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The following table provided illustrates each years total number of pre-planning applications.

	Total number of pre-applications	*Concerns*
2006	731	343
2007	802	327
2008	1037	320
2009	932	64

Typically assessments take several months to complete due to the complexity of each individual assessment and the volume of pre-planning applications consulted on. As a result 846 pre-planning applications submitted in 2008-09 are currently undergoing assessment. It is likely that concerns will be raised for some of these outstanding pre-applications. However, where concerns are raised, mitigation options will be suggested to the developer where possible.

University Officer Training Corps

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the operation of the University Officer Training Corps in the next six months. [293150]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Army has taken a number of savings measures in order to stay within agreed funding allocation for this financial year. As part of these savings, all University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) cadet and volunteer instructor pay will cease until April 2010. This will generate savings of £3 million.

It is hoped that the majority of core training activity, specifically the Military Leadership and Development Programme, will continue on a voluntary basis. Undergraduates and volunteer instructors will continue to be reimbursed for travel and subsistence costs.

Non-core training activities may also continue on a voluntary basis at the discretion of Commanding Officers subject to the availability of volunteer instructors.

Wind Power

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 296W, on wind power, to which wind farm proposals his Department has objected since January 2008; and for what reasons in each case. [293342]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since January 2008 the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has objected to 52 wind farm planning applications, the details of which are recorded in the following table.

	Site name	*Planning authority*	*Reason for MOD objection*
2008	Waun Garno	Powys County Council	Unacceptable restriction on operational low flying
	East Skichen	Angus Council	Interference with air traffic control (ATC) radar
	Dusty Drum	Angus Council	Interference with ATC radar
	North Hall	East Riding Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Redland	Caradon County Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Hook Moor	Leeds City Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Chittering	South Cambridgeshire District Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Gwyndy Quarry Gaia 1	Isle of Anglesey	Interference with ATC radar
	French Farm	Peterborough City Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Rothes Extension	Scottish Government	Interference with ATC radar
	Little White Alice	Kerrier District Council	Interference with Fleet radar
	Kingsthorpe stables	West Lindsey District Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Withernwick	East Riding Council	Interference with air defence (AD) radar
	The Firs	Aberdeenshire Council	Interference with AD radar
	Brunel University	Hillingdon London Borough	Interference with ATC radar
	Maer Hills	Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Woodside Farm	Moray Council	Interference with ATC radar and statutory safeguarding concerns
	Everest Community College	Hampshire County Council	Interference with ATC radar

	Site name	*Planning authority*	*Reason for MOD objection*
	Briar Lodge	North Shropshire District Council	Interference with ATC radar
2009	Todd Hill	Castle Morpeth Borough Council	Interference with threat radars
	Close Farm	Hambleton District Council	Interference with [illegible]C radar
	Trevena Cross Nurseries	Kerrier District Council	Interference with Fleet radar
	Race Bank	Department of Energy and Climate Change	Interference with AD radar
	Neslam Farm	South Kesteven Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Greenacre	Kerrier District Council	Interference with Fleet radar
	Docking Shoal	Department of Energy and Climate Change	Interference with ATC radar
	Linton	Uttlesford District Council, South Cambs District Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Cloffrickford	Aberdeenshire Council	Interference with Met Office radar
	Heysham	Lancaster City Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Sycamore Farm	North Kesteven District Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Howe Hills Wind Farm	Durham County Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Burnthouse	Fenland District	Interference with ATC radar
	Dun Law II	East Lothian Council	Interference with threat radar
	Woodlane	Selby District Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Carnebone	Cornwall Council	Interference with Fleet radar
	Dusty Drum	Angus Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Solwaybank	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Unacceptable restriction on low flying, interference with ATC radar
	Bishopwood	Selby District Council	Interference with ATC radar and statutory safeguarding concerns
	Branston Community College	Lincolnshire County Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Baumber	East Lindsay District Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Llwchyrhal Uchaf	Ceredigion	Interference with ATC radar
	St. Ivo Outdoor Centre	Huntingdon District Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Rosewain Farm	Allerdale Borough Council	Interference with NATS radar (military) and threat radar
	H&H Celcon	East Riding of Yorkshire	Interference with ATC radar
	Auckland House	Wiltshire Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Saughmont	Angus Council	Interference with ATC radar
	CleekHall	Selby District Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Saywell	Boston Borough Council	Interference with ATC radar
	Carlesgill extension	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Interference with threat radar and Eskdalemuir Seismological Recording Station
	Infinis Westfield	Fife Council	Interference with Met Office radar
	Bower Hinton	South Somerset District Council	Interference with Fleet radar
	Monynut	Scottish Government	Interference with AD radar

The MOD only objects to planning applications for wind farms where it is essential to do so. All wind farm applications that we assess are subject to individual consideration. We consider a range of factors such as safety or the impact on Air Defence or Air Traffic radars and objections will only be lodged against planning applications if the operational impact is assessed as being unmanageable. Even where concerns are raised, mitigation options will be suggested to the developer where possible.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal: Industrial Health and Safety

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* live optional risk offer scheme and *(b)* dead optional risk offer scheme coal health compensation scheme applications have been made by the 50 solicitors' firms which have made the highest number of each type of claim. [292010]

Mr. Kidney: The number of awards made under the Live Optional Risk Offer Scheme (LOROS) and Dead Optional Risk Offer Scheme (DOROS) for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) claims submitted by the 50 highest claimants' representatives under the coal health compensation scheme is shown in the following tables as at 4 October 2009.

Coal compensation claims where applications have been made under the LOROS scheme

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease		
Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*Total LOROS claims*
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	11,104
Browell Smith and Co	Newcastle Upon Tyne	6,414
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	5,740
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	4,627
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	4,318
Hugh James	Respiratory Disease Dept	3,743
Avalon Solicitors	Warrington	3,379
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle Upon Tyne	3,117
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	2,673
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (Scottish Claims)	1,499
Delta Legal	Manchester	1,471
Barber and Co	Liverpool	1,446
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	1,249
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	1,242
Thompsons Solicitors	Edinburgh - Scottish Claims Only	1,215
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (UDM Only)	1,172
Corries York	York	1,007
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	Llanelli	933

Coal compensation claims where applications have been made under the LOROS scheme

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*Total LOROS claims*
Corries Solicitors	Glasgow - Scottish Claims Only	833
Ingrams Solicitors	Hull - COPD Only	802
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	760
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	721
Towells Solicitors	Wakefield	702
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	Sheffield	672
Birchall Blackburn	Preston	660
1 Legal Solicitors	Swansea	620
Hilary Meredith Solicitors	Wilmslow	608
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	AMS UDM Claims Only	587
Saffmans Solicitors	Leeds	470
Moss Solicitors	Moss UDM Claims Only	465
Shaw and Co Solicitors	Doncaster	426
Atteys	Rotherham	417
O H Parsons and Partners Solicitors	London	412
Recompense Limited	Totnes	399
Bailey Bravo Jobling	London	389
Latham and Co Solicitors	Leicester	363
Morisons Solicitors	Edinburgh - Scottish Claims Only	344
BHP LAW	Belmont	339
Simpson Millar Solicitors	Leeds	335
Onyems and Partners	Essex	312
McConville O'Neill Solicitors	Glasgow - Scottish	299
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	288
Meloy Whittle Robinson	Preston	286
BRM Solicitors	Chesterfield	282
Avalon Solicitors	Manchester (Scottish Only)	277
Oxley and Coward Solicitors	Rotherham	228
Mortons Solicitors	Sunderland	199
Cordner Lewis Solicitors	Cardiff	184
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle Upon Tyne	173
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle - SPSSG only	157
Total		70,358

Coal compensation claims where applications have been made under the DOROS scheme

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Claimants' representatives	*Location*	*Total DOROS claims*
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster	16,337
Hugh James	Respiratory Disease Dept	11,021
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley	9,564
Avalon Solicitors	Warrington	9,087
Barber and Co	Liverpool	5,125
Browell Smith and Co	Newcastle Upon Tyne	4,486
Delta Legal	Manchester	4,214
Thompsons Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	3,701
Avalon Solicitors	Manchester (Scottish Only)	2,696
BRM Solicitors	Chesterfield	2,394
Thompsons Solicitors	Edinburgh - Scottish claims only	2,256
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	Sheffield	2,127
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle Upon Tyne	1,707
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	Llanelli	1,578
Hilary Meredith Solicitors	Wilmslow	1,483
Ingrams Solicitors	Hull - COPD Only	1,330
Watson Burton LLP	Newcastle Upon Tyne	1,282
Corries York	York	1,201
1 Legal Solicitors	Swansea	1,197
Onyems and Partners	Essex	927
Bailey Bravo Jobling	London	880
Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers	Victoria	783
Beresfords Solicitors	Doncaster (Scottish Claims)	772
Graysons Solicitors	Sheffield	734
Corries Solicitors	Glasgow - Scottish Claims Only	700
Mark Gilbert Morse	Newcastle Upon Tyne (Scottish Only)	691
Cordner Lewis Solicitors	Cardiff	686
TLW Solicitors	North Shields	676
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	628
Birchall Blackburn	Preston	576
Wake Smith and Tofields Solicitors	Sheffield	539
Recompense Limited	Totnes	514
McConville O'Neill Solicitors	Glasgow - Scottish	403
Atteys	Rotherham	327
Simpson Millar Solicitors	Leeds	319
Raleys Solicitors	Barnsley (Scottish Claims)	300
SIS Law	Menai Bridge	288
MK Legal LLP Solicitors	Milton Keynes	226
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	216
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	Mansfield	213
Meloy Whittle Robinson	Preston	197
Shaw and Co Solicitors	Doncaster	182
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	Sheffield	177
Moss Solicitors	Loughborough	175
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	St Peters House (Scottish COPD claims only)	172
Corries Solicitors	York Scottish claims only	156
MLM Solicitors	Cardiff	145
Marrons Solicitors	Newcastle Upon Tyne	141
Wake Smith and Tofields Solicitors	Sheffield - UDM Claims Only	135
T S Edwards and Son Solicitors	Ystrad Mynach	129
Total		95,793

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has paid in probate costs in relation to the coal health compensation scheme to each firm of solicitors operating for claimants in *(a)* Bassetlaw constituency and *(b)* England and Wales; and how many such claims for probate costs have been received. [292533]

Mr. Kidney: I will place in the Libraries of the House tables which show how much in probate costs the Department has paid out under the coal health compensation schemes in respect of Bassetlaw constituency and in England and Wales as at 4 October 2009.

There were no probate costs in Bassetlaw constituency under the Vibration White Finger scheme.

The figures reflect probate costs that were paid after May 2006. Prior to this date probate costs were not recorded separately and the Department is unable to report on them. The Department is unable to provide the number of claims made for probate costs as these are also not recorded separately.

Departmental Buildings: Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) the Coal Authority, (ii) the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, (iii) the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, (iv) the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies, (v) the Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, (vi) the Renewables Advisory Board, (vii) the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee, (viii) the Committee on Climate Change, (ix) the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and ([illegible]) the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets. [289840]

Mr. Kidney: Copies of the display energy certificate (DEC) and advisory report for buildings occupied by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Ofgem will be placed in the Libraries of the House. A display energy certificate and advisory report for the Coal Authority's headquarters in Mansfield is awaited and will be placed in the Library as soon as they are available.

A display energy certificate (DEC) rating has not been completed for the building that the CCC currently occupies. If and when it is conducted, the CCC will send it to the House Libraries for display. The decision over whether to apply for a DEC rating for the building is up to the building manager and the CCC has no jurisdiction over this. The CCC recently had an energy performance certificate produced for its offices. The CCC's offices were awarded an E-rating for energy efficiency. Copies of the energy performance certificate have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Advisory Group on Carbon Abatement Technologies, Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, Renewables Advisory Board, the UK Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority Advisory Committee and the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management do not occupy their own property.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has lead responsibility for the UK Atomic Energy Authority. UKAEA does not have any properties which fall within the requirements of the legislation.

Heating: Fuels

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans further regulation of the heating fuels sector; and if he will make a statement. [290882]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* The Gas Act 1986 (as amended), which amongst other things set up the gas regulatory bodies, exempted heating oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from its provisions. The Gas Act principally addressed the issues of setting up a regulatory regime to ensure that the national transmission system for gas users was not exploited. In contrast, there is no natural monopoly in the transport of heating oil or LPG by road. The heating fuels market operates with a number of distributors competing for supply using alternative supply sources. In that sense, it is broadly similar to other products such as diesel and petrol. The Department therefore has no plans for the economic regulation of the heating fuels sector.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), which will encourage the uptake of renewable heat generation, to meet our renewable energy and carbon targets, will be funded through a levy on suppliers of fossil fuel for heat. It is intended that the scheme will be introduced from April 2011 with the detail of the scheme being set out in secondary legislation under Section 100 of the Energy Act 2008.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to assist park home residents to reduce their *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* heating bills. [293615]

Joan Ruddock: It is difficult to reduce the carbon emissions and heating bills of park homes due to the lack of scope for key energy efficiency measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation. Where scope does exist, such as through draught-proofing and high-efficiency lights and appliances, assistance is available to park homes residents through schemes such as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and Warm Front.

Warm Front is currently working in partnership with a gas distributor and a local residents association to enable 61 residents of Elm Tree caravan park in Hartlepool to be connected to the mains gas network. This project meant these homes, previously utilising liquid petroleum gas, coal or forms of electric heating, reduced their likely energy bills and likely carbon consumption. The project considerably reduced the otherwise prohibitive cost that had prevented each park home individually connecting to the gas network.

The Warm Front scheme has also begun a piloting exercise of external wall insulation for 100 park home properties. If this trial is successful, then this may be included as a main measure offered through the scheme.

Free expert advice on practical ways to save energy in the home is also available through the ACT ON C02 advice line.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of the referrals generated by the Warm Front marketing team which are second surveys. [293441]

Mr. Kidney: Warm Front has assisted 2,069,069 households to date (30 September 2009), of which 0.5 per cent. (10,725) have received a second survey.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria were used to assess the *(a)* cost-effectiveness and *(b)* reliability of Ideal ISAR (i) 24HE and (ii) 30HE condensing boilers for use by Eaga plc under the Warm Front scheme. [293444]

Mr. Kidney: The Ideal ISAR 24HE and 30HE boilers were approved by DECC's predecessor Department, DEFRA, for use on the Warm Front Scheme at the start of the current phase of the scheme in 2005.

The Ideal ISAR boiler and other boilers were reviewed by the Grant Aided Installer Network (GAIN) who concluded that the ISAR range of boilers was the most reliable and cost effective on the market at the time.

Eaga, the scheme manager, and the Department continually reviews feedback from customers, installers, inspectors and the scheme aftercare providers to identify major reliability issues with any of the products used on the scheme.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on Eaga plc's commercial interest in WarmSure Ltd. in relation to the Warm Front Scheme. [293445]

Mr. Kidney: The use of WarmSure for the provision of Warm Front aftercare services was agreed with Eaga as part of their contract with DECC to deliver the Warm Front Scheme.

It is not possible to provide information on third party representations specifically in relation to Eaga's commercial interest in WarmSure, without incurring disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bottles: Recycling

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of a national bottle deposit scheme in reducing littering. [293628]

Dan Norris: In December 2008 DEFRA published a report looking at the features of packaging deposit systems and the role they might play in increasing recovery and recycling and reducing littering in the UK. The report found little hard evidence to suggest that deposit schemes reduce littering and thought that the major impact of such a scheme would be to divert packaging from waste bins to recycling bins.

Overall, the report concluded that resources could be more effectively used in improving current systems than in developing a parallel one for deposits on packaging. Improving household collections and developing the away from home recycling infrastructure are likely to be more cost-effective in increasing recycling and tackling litter.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing statutory measures to control bovine tuberculosis in each of the next five years; and what estimate he has made of the likely reduction in such costs consequent on control measures introduced by his Department. [293848]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Forecasting spend on bovine TB is extremely difficult not least because there has often been significant year to year fluctuations in the number of infected cattle disclosed through testing and slaughterhouse surveillance. Spend on testing and compensation forms a major part of our TB control costs—future spend in these areas is highly dependent on the number of TB infected cattle disclosed and prevailing open market prices for cattle (since compensation paid through table valuations is directly linked to open market prices).

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the requirement under EU Directive 64/432/EEC that all farms in a country where bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is greater than one per cent. of the cattle herd be tested for bTB annually was abandoned. [293855]

Jim Fitzpatrick: EU Directive 64/432/EEC requires annual testing where bTB prevalence is greater than 1 per cent. in a 'defined area'. Historically, England has used parishes (not the country as a whole) as the defined area for setting TB testing intervals, and these have been reviewed annually.

In accordance with a recommendation from the TB Eradication Group for England we are developing a new approach for determining routine TB testing intervals, that more effectively takes account of local TB risks. While this work is ongoing, an interim regime will be in place from 1 January 2010.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department and its predecessor of *(a)* compensation paid directly to farmers for removal of animals, *(b)* veterinary tuberculin testing, *(c)* haulage for removal of animals, *(d)* abattoir and official veterinary surgeon services in respect of slaughter, *(e)* on-farm slaughter, *(f)* disposal and incineration and *(g)* valuation fees was in respect of the implementation of statutory testing and slaughter under bovine tuberculosis regulations of (i) cattle classed as bovine tuberculosis reactors, inconclusives or dangerous contact animals and (ii) all other mammals (A) between 1986 and 1996 and (B) since 1997. [293860]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides a summary of TB related expenditure incurred by DEFRA in relation to compensation, testing, haulage/disposal of livestock compulsorily slaughtered on TB control grounds, and valuers' fees. The way in which financial data have been collected/collated means that we are not able to provide a detailed breakdown of spend, in the form the hon. Gentleman has requested, for the years prior to 1999.

I am unable to provide details of Government staff costs related to 'in-abattoir' controls: policy responsibility for a key element of this work (verifying that meat is fit for human consumption) rests with the Food Standards Agency, rather than DEFRA. Also, the costs of on-farm slaughter for the small minority of cattle unfit to be sent to licensed abattoirs are not recorded separately.

(£ million)

	Compensation paid[1]	*Haulage / Disposal*	*Valuers fees*	*Cattle testing*[2]
2007	13.6	1.3	0.0[5]	32.6
2006	16.4	1.2	0.2	37.7
2005	31.4	1.0	0.5	35
2004	23.7	0.9	0.4	36.4
2003	25.7	0.7	0.5	33.2
2002	21.7	0.7	0.4	24.7
2001	4.6	0.2	0.1	5.4
2000	5.7	0.5	0.1	13.3
1999	3.4	0.1	0.1	17.6
1998	3.6	—	—	7.3
1997	2.4	—	—	5.5
1996	2.3	—	—	—
1995	2.0	—	—	—
1994	2.0	—	—	—
1993	2.1	—	—	—
1992	0.7	—	—	—
1991	0.7	—	—	—
1990	1.1	—	—	—
1989	0.6	—	—	—
1988	0.4	—	—	—
1987	0.5	—	—	—
1986	0.3	—	—	—

[1]. Compensation includes payments to farmers for 'reactors' and 'direct contact' animals which are compulsorily slaughtered, and non-bovine species.

[2] Cattle testing—the cost of carrying out the testing of cattle for TB by arranging, assessing and monitoring tests, conducting investigations of incident herds and diagnostic testing by Local veterinary Inspectors across GB.

Notes:

1. Data from 1999 have been taken from the DEFRA Oracle Financial System. Information pre-1999 has been taken from the respective annual reports of the Chief Veterinary Officer.
2. Data are provisional and subject to change.
3. DEFRA holds the testing budget for the whole of GB.
4. The 1997 figure is for the calendar year - figures for 1998/99 onwards are per financial year.
5. Valuers' fees - expenditure in 2007 and 2008 was below £100,000.

With regards to livestock disposal costs, no such estimate has been made. For most cattle compulsorily slaughtered on TB control grounds, DEFRA has received a net payment from abattoirs rather than incurred a cost.

MHS officials inspect carcasses of such cattle when slaughtered in licensed abattoirs, a small proportion of TB affected cattle are condemned as unfit for human consumption e.g. if TB lesions are identified in more than one part of the carcase. In such cases DEFRA does makes a payment to the abattoir to cover its disposal costs. It is not possible to provide details of slaughter costs in the form requested: typically an abattoir will receive batches of cattle being slaughtered on disease control grounds rather than single animals—if one (or more) of these animals is condemned, the cost to DEFRA will be offset by the total salvage value received from those passed as fit for human consumption.

Departmental Buildings

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) heat, (iii) water and sewerage services and (iv) disposal of waste on the latest date for which figures are available; what proportion of such (A) electricity and (B) heat was from renewable sources; what the weight was of such waste; what proportion of such waste was recycled; at what cost such waste was recycled; and what area of office floor space (1) his Department and (2) its agencies own or lease. [illegible]

Dan Norris: The following amounts were spent on energy and water in 2007-08.

				Cost (£)
Organisation	*Electricity*	*Gas*	*Oil*	*Water*
DEFRA	1,171,745	199,292	29,101	89,651
Animal Health	192,356	59,655	9,853	58,152
MFA	15,379	3,986	2,094	2,820
RPA	537,396	113,370	18,277	72,001
CEFAS	379,799	90,529	0	165,069
FERA (formerly CSL)	1,198,146	460,979	291	81,782
VLA	1,352,292	996,636	229,056	117,190
Total	4,847,113	1,924,447	288,612	586,665

Data for 2008-09 have not yet been verified by OGC therefore cannot be released.

DEFRA is unable to identify the cost for waste disposal and recycling as this activity is part of a composite facilities management contract specifically engineered to offer value for money, accordingly the individual costs for waste disposal and recycling are not identified. Similarly, the costs of recycling and recovered waste set out below are not individually identifiable.

In 2007-08, 55.9 per cent. of electricity purchased was from renewable sources. DEFRA did not purchase any gas/heat from renewable sources.

The DEFRA estate generated 4,816 tonnes of waste, 29 per cent. of the waste was recycled (recycled, composted, re-used externally).

It should be noted that DEFRA incinerates approximately 30 per cent. of its waste, from which significant quantity of heat and energy is recovered. Current Sustainable Development Commission reporting does not acknowledge energy recovery from waste incineration as recycling or waste recovery under current Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) guidelines. It is expected that energy recovered from incineration will be included in future SOGE targets. DEFRA recovers 60 per cent. of the waste generated (recycled, composted, reused externally, incinerated with energy recovery).

DEFRA and its core Executive agencies own and lease 230,000 square metres of office space.

Departmental Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificate and *(b)* advisory report for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) the Forestry Commission and (ii) the Office of Water Services. [illegible]

Dan Norris: There are no Display Energy Certificates in Forestry Commission buildings in England as they have all been assessed as outside the requirement for a certificate. In almost all cases this is due to the buildings having a useful floor area of less than 1,000 square metres.

Ofwat are in the process of obtaining a display energy certificate and advisory report. These will be published by the Office of Government Commerce when available and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Dogs: Quarantine

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will relax the quarantine rules in respect of rescue dogs returning to the UK from service overseas; and what representations he has received in respect of the quarantine of the rescue dog Darcy of the urban search and rescue section of the Essex fire and rescue service. [291847]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government recognises the excellent work carried out by search and rescue dogs in responding to overseas disasters, such as the recent earthquake in Indonesia, and their rapid and valuable response to such emergencies.

We also appreciate the difficulty the current quarantine requirements cause for owners of these rescue dogs, particularly the rule requiring that dogs coming into the UK from certain countries, including Indonesia, are placed in quarantine on their arrival. This long standing rule is in place to protect the UK from the incursion of serious diseases such as rabies.

DEFRA has not received any formal representation in respect of the rescue dog Darcy. However, we are happy to consider ways to support rescue dogs, consistent with the law and the overriding need to protect the UK population from disease.

Farmers: Income

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average annual income of *(a)* farmers and *(b)* hill farmers in (i) England and (ii) Cumbria was in each year since 1997. [291917]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following tables show Farm Business Income[1] (FBI) for England and Cumbria for all farm types and for grazing livestock farms in the less favoured areas (LFA). Farm Business Income is the most robust measure of income but is not available prior to 2003-04. Equivalent data are also shown for Net Farm Income[2] (NFI).

[1] Farm Business Income represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings.

[2] Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse alone for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. An imputed rent is deducted for owner-occupied farms as is a charge for other unpaid labour.

All farm types

(£ per farm)

	England		*Cumbria*	
March/ February	*Net farm income*	*Farm business income*	*Net farm income*	*Farm business income*
2007-08	38,600	48,100	17,800	25,600
2006-07	26,700	34,400	6,700	15,600
2005-06	21,100	28,600	19,100	18,500
2004-05	21,200	28,300	18,400	18,600
2003-04	29,500	36,800	17,800	18,400
2002-03	16,600	n/a	14,000	n/a
2001-02	14,900	n/a	22,800	n/a
2000-01	10,600	n/a	14,300	n/a
1999-2000	8,700	n/a	9,100	n/a
1998-99	11,500	n/a	10,600	n/a
1997-98	15,200	n/a	14,500	n/a

Source:

Business Survey, England

LFA grazing livestock

(£ per farm)

	England		*Cumbria*	
March/ February	*Net farm income*	*Farm business income*	*Net farm income*	*Farm business income*
2007-08	5,000	10,400	6,000	9,800
2006-07	6,100	10,500	2,200	8,800
2005-06	11,800	15,800	15,700	15,100
2004-05	13,400	16,200	19,600	18,900
2003-04	15,000	17,400	17,500	16,200
2002-03	17,700	n/a	20,100	n/a
2001-02	7,400	n/a	17,700	n/a
2000-01	5,900	n/a	14,200	n/a
1999-2000	5,600	n/a	10,700	n/a
1998-99	6,200	n/a	12,400	n/a
1997-98	12,700	n/a	21,500	n/a

Source:

Farm Business Survey, England

Note:

The Farm Business Survey sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.5, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

Hill Farming

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hill farmers left the industry in each year since 1997. [291923]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA does not collect figures on the number of farmers who leave the industry each year. The information collected from the June Survey of Agriculture only allows an indication of net change.

The total number of holdings classified within Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) from 2000-08 are shown in the following table, along with the number of principal farmers working on these holdings. As many holdings are very small, we have also provided an estimate excluding the very smallest holdings considered to require a farmer less than half-time. This gives a better indication of trends.

Figures are only available from 2000 onwards as the method of classifying holdings within LFAs changed in 2006 and results were only backdated to 2000. Therefore, results pre-2000 are not comparable.

	Number of farmers[1] on LFA holdings	*Number of farmers[1] on LFA holdings of >0.5 SLR[2]*	*Total number of LFA holdings*	*Number of LFA holdings >0.5 SLR[2]*
2000	36,046	21,174	26,806	10,943
2001	38,187	20,092	28,092	10,064
2002	36,524	20,376	29,668	10,360
2003	35,279	19,969	30,058	10,289
2004	36,120	20,057	30,365	10,185
2005	36,131	19,301	30,678	10,310
2006	36,348	19,709	31,501	10,387
2007	35,811	18,459	32,666	10,108
2008	35,828	18,015	33,163	10,148

[1] Farmers are defined as full- and part-time principal farmers, partners, directors and spouses working on holdings.

[2] Standard Labour Requirement. The theoretical number of workers required to run a holding, based on its cropping and livestock activities. Results above 0.5 SLR cover farms which require more than half a full-time farmer.

Notes:

1. Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) were established in 1975 as a means to provide support to mountainous and hill farming areas. The present LFAs in England are subdivided into two areas. The more environmentally challenging areas within the LFA are classed as 'Severely Disadvantaged Areas' (SDA). The remainder is classified as 'Disadvantaged Areas' (DA).
2. There has been an increase in registered holdings in recent years for several reasons. The introduction of the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 led to large increases in the numbers of holdings registered with the RPA. Large numbers of holdings were also registered for animal tracing purposes particularly following the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001.

Source:

June Survey of Agriculture and central DEFRA definitions of LFA boundaries.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hill farms ceased operating as hill farms in each of the last five years. [291924]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA does not collect figures on the number of holdings that cease operating each year. The information collected from the June Survey of Agriculture only allows an indication of net change.

The total number of holdings classified within Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) for the past five years are shown in the following table. As many holdings are very small, we have also provided an estimate excluding the very smallest holdings considered to require a farmer less than half-time. This gives a better indication of trends.

	Total number of LFA holdings	*Number of LFA holdings >0.5 SLR[1]*
2004	30,365	10,185
2005	30,678	10,310
2006	31,501	10,387
2007	32,666	10,108
2008	33,163	10,148

[1] Standard Labour Requirement. The theoretical number of workers required to run a holding, based on its cropping and livestock activities. Results above 0.5 SLR cover farms which require more than half a full-time farmer.

Notes:

1. Less Favoured Areas (LFAs) were established in 1975 as a means to provide support to mountainous and hill farming areas. The present LFAs in England are subdivided into two areas. The more environmentally challenging areas within the LFA are classed as 'Severely Disadvantaged Areas' (SDA). The remainder is classified as 'Disadvantaged Areas' (DA).
2. There has been an increase in registered holdings in recent years for several reasons. The introduction of the Single Payment Scheme in 2005 led to large increases in the numbers of holdings registered with the RPA. Large numbers of holdings were also registered for animal tracing purposes particularly following the foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001.

Source:

June Survey of Agriculture and central DEFRA definitions of LFA boundaries.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the financial effect on farmers of operating inside the new Nitrate Vulnerable Zones with effect from 1 January 2010. [293634]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations (2008), which implement the EU Nitrates Directive in England, increase the area designated as nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs) to approximately 70 per cent. of the country and tighten the mandatory action programme of measures that apply within these zones. The impact assessment estimates the total annual cost to farmers of complying with the regulations to be £48.5 million-£68.6 million. The UK's successful negotiation of a derogation from the livestock manure N farm limit, one of the more demanding requirements set by the Nitrates Directive, means these costs could be reduced by £16.9 million to £21.7 million per annum.

The impact assessment can be downloaded via

www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20082349_en.pdf

Ragwort: Disease Control

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken on the extent of ragwort poisoning of horses; and if he will make a statement. [293861]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has not undertaken any specific studies on the extent of ragwort poisoning of horses. However, DEFRA's policy under the Weeds Act 1959 is to control injurious weeds where there is a threat to animal welfare or agricultural activities.

Natural England investigates complaints about ragwort on behalf of DEFRA and will take enforcement actions where there is a risk of:

Weeds spreading to land used for grazing horses and other animals;

Weeds spreading to land used for the production of conserved forage;

Weeds spreading to land used for other agricultural activities; and

The complainant has already made reasonable efforts to contact the landowner and occupier where the weeds are growing.

DEFRA's code of practice on how to prevent the spread of Ragwort was published in July 2004. DEFRA worked with the British Horse Society, rural consultancy ADAS, English Nature, Wildlife and Countryside Link and other stakeholders to draw up the code. It provides comprehensive guidance on how to develop a strategic and cost-effective approach to weed control. The code gives advice on:

Identification of Common Ragwort;

Risk assessment and priorities for Ragwort control;

Control methods their suitability and efficacy;

Environmental considerations; and

Health and safety issues.

Water

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water resource management plans have been submitted by water companies in England. [293756]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In spring 2008, all 21 English water companies submitted their draft water resources management plans and consulted publicly on them during summer 2008. The Secretary of State has now considered the draft plans, the representations made in respect of the drafts and the water companies' statements of response to the representations. On 3 August 2009 he issued decision letters to the water companies on the next steps.

10 of the water companies are now able to publish their final plans and three have already done so. The remaining 11 are either providing further information in support of their plan, or their plan will be considered further at a public inquiry or hearing.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Asylum

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Burmese authorities over the recent attack by Burmese forces on the Ler Per Her refugee camp. [293757]

Chris Bryant: We continue to be deeply concerned about the situation in Karen State, and closely followed reports of fighting in June 2009, including reports of an attack on the Ler Per Her refugee camp. We raised our concerns in a UN Security Council discussion on the protection of civilians in armed conflict on 26 June 2009. The EU, with strong UK support, issued a statement on 11 June 2009 calling for an end to hostilities. It expressed particular concern about the humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict.

We have repeatedly urged both the military regime in Burma and the Karen National Union to intensify their efforts to find a peaceful settlement that will bring about a permanent end to the conflict. Direct representations on this issue were made most recently at meetings between our ambassador and Burmese Ministers on 18 and 19 June 2009. Our embassy in Rangoon continues to monitor the situation closely.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's plans are for the future provision of UK military aid to Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [293008]

Chris Bryant: The Government do not provide military aid to Colombia. I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement on Colombia, laid before the House by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 40WS.

I have, in addition, written to the Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, outlining the work we do in Colombia. A copy of this letter is in the Library of the House.

Overseas Territories

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the net cost to the Exchequer of each UK overseas territory. [292503]

Chris Bryant: The following Government Departments meet the costs of, and provide the majority of the assistance to, the Overseas Territories: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DFID), the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Department for Transport (DFT) and the Department for Environment Food and Agriculture (DEFRA).

The UK is responsible for 14 Overseas Territories. The following figures cover staff and administration costs in support of defence, sustainable development, safety and security, good governance and the environment.

Department	*Cost (£ million) (2008-09)*
FCO	
Overseas Territories Directorate—Home costs	2.5
Overseas Territories Directorate—Overseas costs (including capital costs)	3.1
Overseas Territories Directorate—Programme allocation (Overseas Territories Programme Fund)	6.5
Gibraltar—Home costs	0.3
Gibraltar—Overseas costs	1.1
DFID	
Administration costs (home and overseas)	2.1
Assistance to Pitcairn, Montserrat, St. Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, TCI and cross-territory projects	55.87
MOD	
British Forces in Falklands and Ascension	78.51
Gibraltar	55.60
British Indian Overseas Territories	2.3
DFT	
Programme and running costs for aviation and maritime safety and air accident investigations	3.1
DEFRA	
Costs to Kew and Joint Nature Conservation Committee	0.5
British Antarctic Survey (BAS) costs	4.0
Darwin Projects	0.04
Total	215.52

South Africa: Politics and Government

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage *(a)* South Africa and *(b)* the South African Development Community to seek to ensure President Mugabe complies with the terms of the power-sharing agreement with Morgan Tsvangirai. [293121]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are in regular touch with both South Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as a part of our contact with international partners on Zimbabwe. The SADC, as sponsor and guarantor of the Global Political Agreement (GPA), has a key role to play in supporting reform in Zimbabwe. South Africa, although no longer in the SADC chair, remains closely involved in the organisation's discussions. It is a member of the new SADC Troika on Zimbabwe. President Zuma visited Harare in August 2009 and called for the full and timely implementation of the GPA. He reiterated this jointly with the EU at the EU-Africa summit on 11 September 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed Zimbabwe with President Zuma when they met at the G8 in June 2009, as did my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary in his telephone call with the South African Foreign Minister in July 2009.

My noble Friend, the then Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, regularly encouraged SADC Ministers to support implementation of the GPA, most recently in the margins of the World Economic Forum meeting in Cape Town in June 2009. We will continue to make working with the region to promote reform in Zimbabwe a priority.

USA

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent requests his Department has made to the US administration for talks between the President of the United States of America and Government representatives. [293827]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no recent requests for discussions between President Obama and representatives of the Government.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and US President Barack Obama have regular Video Teleconference discussions on key issues. They most recently spoke on 8 October 2009.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency and effectiveness of those accident and emergency departments in England whose annual volume of attendances is below 55,000; and if he will make a statement. [293195]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is for primary care trusts to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the accident and emergency (A&E) services they commission. The Department has set an operational standard that 98 per cent of patients should not spend more than four hours. in A and E departments. National annual performance against the standard was 98.1 per cent. in 2008-09. Performance of individual trusts is published on the Department's website, but performance of individual A and E departments is not collected centrally. As seen in the 2008 Healthcare Commission survey of A and E, nationally patient ratings of care are continue to be positive—patient satisfaction with the overall quality of care is high: 88 per cent., rate it as "excellent", "very good" or "good".

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospital trusts in England have *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more accident and emergency departments. [293196]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A list of national health service hospital trusts sorted according to whether they have one, two, three, four or more type 1 or type 2 accident and emergency departments has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services must be provided in a designated *(a)* accident and emergency department and *(b)* Urgent Care Centre. [293197]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Configuration of services is a matter for local decision-making by primary care trusts. For the purposes of performance data collection, the Department uses the following definitions:

Type 1 Accident and Emergency (A&E) department: A consultant led 24 hour service with full resuscitation facilities and designated accommodation for the reception of accident and emergency patients;

Type 2 A&E department: A consultant led single specialty accident and emergency service (eg ophthalmology, dental) with designated accommodation for the reception of patients; and

Type 3 A&E department: Other type of A&E/minor injury units (MIUs)/Walk-in Centres with designated accommodation for the reception of accident and emergency patients. A type 3 department may be doctor led or nurse led. It may be co-located with a major A&E or sited in the community. A defining characteristic of a service qualifying as a type 3 department is that it treats at least minor injuries and illnesses (sprains for example) and can be routinely accessed without appointment. A service mainly or entirely appointment based (for example a general practitioner practice or outpatient clinic) or one mainly or entirely accessed via telephone or other referral (for example most out of hours and primary care services)is not a type 3 A&E service even though it may treat a number of patients with minor illness or injury.

The Department has not set a definition for 'urgent care centre'.

Ambulance Services: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of ambulances attending 999 calls in East Lancashire in each year since 2004 had a trained paramedic on board. [293199]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information about paramedics on board ambulances responding to 999 calls is not collected centrally.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292660]

Ann Keen: Information on all Department grant funding to charitable organisations is not available in the format requested from central records and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Tables showing grant awards from the funding years 2004-05 up to the current funding year 2009-10 with the identifiable data available including Social Enterprise Pathfinders, Social Enterprise Investment Fund, Children's Hospice and Hospice at Home, Dignity in Care (one year capital awards), Tobacco policy programme, Section 64 General Scheme of Grants, Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund, Strategic Partner Programme and the Opportunities for Volunteering grant scheme, have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many management consultants were employed on short- and long-term contracts in his Department in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [293629]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect the information requested. It is preferred practice to award consultancy contracts based on outcomes for a fixed fee. As a result it is at the discretion of the management consultancies to manage the number of staff allocated to projects at any one time to most effectively deliver the required outcomes.

The Department publishes its overall expenditure on management consultancy, which is available on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/
Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/
FOIreleases/DH_103938

Endometriosis

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to raise awareness amongst employers of the needs of people with endometriosis. [292562]

Gillian Merron: There is no specific Government advice for employers in relation to endometriosis in the workplace.

The Government's response 'Improving Health and Work: changing lives' in November 2008 to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population, 'Working for a Healthier Tomorrow', published in March 2008, is putting in place support for individuals, health care professionals and employers to enable individuals to return to work at the earliest opportunity and to remain in work. This includes widespread reforms to occupational health services through NHS Plus, the development of a 'Fit for Work Service', and the development of the 'Fit note', which will give employers more information about what steps they can take to help people to return to work.

Copies of these documents have been placed in the Library.

General Practitioners: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of rural parishes without a GP in each year since 1997. [293202]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally.

Health Services: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the sale of the vacant premises of the former health centre at Saxon Square, Christchurch to be completed. [293753]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following the decision of the local national health service trust not to utilise the property and the landlord's decision not to accept a surrender of the lease, agreement is being finalised with the landlord on the extent of repair works to be undertaken in compliance with a previously served Repairs Notice. Once agreement is reached, the works will be undertaken and the property formally marketed. The availability of the property has for some time been included on the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIMS)—the central database of Government civil estate managed by the Office of Government Commerce.

Midwives: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student midwives were in receipt of a bursary in each of the last five years; what the average bursary paid to a student midwife was in each such year in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms; how much was paid out to student midwives in bursaries in each such year, expressed in (i) cash and (ii) real terms; what the cost was of all bursaries paid to student midwives; and by how much in real terms the bursary changed in each of those years. [292666]

Ann Keen: The number of midwifery students who held a bursary and the average bursary paid to those students can be found in the following table.

Academic year	*Number of bursary holders*[1]	*Average basic bursary in cash terms*[1] *(£)*	*Average basic bursary in 2009 prices*[1,2] *(£)*	*Average bursary (inc. allowances) in cash terms*[1] *(£)*	*Average bursary (inc. allowances) in 2009 prices*[1,2] *(£)*
2004-05	3,738	5,326	5,882	5,521	6,097
2005-06	3,901	5,437	5,886	5,657	6,124
2006-07	3,812	5,494	5,788	5,716	6,022
2007-08	3,996	5,588	5,718	5,813	5,948

Academic year	*Number of bursary holders*[1]	*Average basic bursary in cash terms*[1] *(£)*	*Average basic bursary in 2009 prices*[1,2] *(£)*	*Average bursary (inc. allowances) in cash terms*[1] *(£)*	*Average bursary (inc. allowances) in 2009 prices*[1,2] *(£)*
2008-09	4,265	5,524	5,524	5,715	5,715

[1] Includes EU students who are not eligible for a bursary and those who receive a nil award after income assessment.

[2] Based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) at April in the middle of the academic year i.e.

CPI for 2004-05 taken at April 2005.

Sources:

Office for National Statistics

NHS Business Services Authority

The average bursary awarded to students reflects the change in the proportion of diploma to degree students because bursary awards to degree students are means-tested. Degree students are also eligible for a student loan. Since 2004, the number of midwifery degree programmes commissioned by the national health service has increased and the number of diploma programmes reduced significantly.

The total cost of the bursaries can be found in the following table.

Academic year	*Total spend (exc. allowances) in cash terms (£)*	*Total spend (exc. allowances) at 2009 prices*[1] *(£)*	*Total spend (inc. allowances) in cash terms (£)*	*Total spend (inc. allowances) at 2009 prices*[1] *(£)*
2004-05	19,908,213	21,984,897	20,637,109	22,789,826
2005-06	21,209,791	22,961,632	22,067,168	23,889,825
2006-07	20,944,277	22,066,650	21,787,618	22,955,184
2007-08	22,327,766	22,846,534	23,228,490	23,768,185
2008-09	23,560,311	23,560,311	24,373,689	24,373,689

[1] Based on CPI at April in the middle of the academic year i.e. CPI for 2004-05 taken at April 2005.

Sources:

Office for National Statistics

NHS Business Services Authority

The rates for the basic NHS bursary, at 2009 prices, are set out in the following table. In addition to the NHS bursary, degree students are eligible for a non-means tested student loan.

	Diploma		*Degree*		
	London[1] *(£)*	*Elsewhere*[1] *(£)*	*London*[1] *(£)*	*Elsewhere*[1] *(£)*	*Parental home*[1] *(£)*
2008 (new)[2]	7,629.00	6,531.00	3,306.00	2,739.00	2,287.00
2008 (existing)[2]	7,374.00	6,275.00	3,050.00	2,483.00	2,031.00
2007 (new)[2]	7,615.93	6,520.05	3,299.93	2,734.08	2,282.84
2007 (existing)[2]	7,361.15	6,264.24	3,045.14	2,478.27	2,055.68
2006	7,406.73	6,303.62	3,063.84	2,493.84	2,068.19
2005	7,425.53	6,319.11	3,071.32	2,499.71	2,045.02
2004	7,390.06	6,289.06	3,056.74	2,488.02	2,035.25

[1] Based on CPI at the April in the middle of the academic year i.e. CPI for 2004-05 taken at April 2005.

[2] In 2007 certain allowances were removed from the scheme to make it compliant with age discrimination legislation. Existing students remained on the previous rules and new rates introduced for new entrants.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

NHS Foundation Trusts: Governing Bodies

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people serve on the governing council of a foundation hospital; and by what method they are selected. [292565]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Health Service Act 2006 does not stipulate the number of governors at an NHS foundation trust. Each NHS foundation trust decides how many governors should be included in its constitution. The members of the NHS foundation trust must elect the majority of the governors. The other governors are appointed by organisations such as the primary care trust, the local authority and the university, where the NHS foundation trust has a medical or dental school. Schedule 7 of The National Health Service Act 2006 sets out the statutory requirements for an NHS foundation trust's constitution.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process is followed to *(a)* select and *(b)* remove (i) the chairman, (ii) the chief executive and (iii) directors of a foundation hospital. [292566]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The process for selecting and removing the chairman, chief executive and directors of a foundation trust hospital is contained in Schedule 7 of the National Health Service Act 2006. The board of governors at a general meeting appoint or remove the chairman and the other non executive directors. The non-executive directors appoint or remove the chief executive. It is for a committee consisting of the chairman, the chief executive and the other non-executive directors to appoint or remove the executive directors.

NHS: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts are borrowing money from his Department; what interest rates are being charged on each loan; what the term of each loan is; and how much interest has been paid on each to date. [292689]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department makes loans to national health service trusts and national health service foundation trusts. The information requested is provided in the following table.

NHS trust name	*National loan fund rate (fixed for term) (percentage)*	*Term of loan (years/ months)*	*Interest paid to date (£000)*
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS trust	5.40	6 years	1,641
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS trust	5.45	5 years	541
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS trust	3.97	3 years	89
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS trust	5.45	4 years	1,773
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS trust	4.02	25 years	0
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	4.70	25 years	180

NHS trust name	*National loan fund rate (fixed for term) (percentage)*	*Term of loan (years/ months)*	*Interest paid to date (£000)*
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	4.90	25 years	803
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation trust	4.06	25 years	0
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	3.04	10 years	152
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS trust	4.01	5 years	265
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS trust	5.40	6 years	2,971
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS trust	4.88	5 years	324
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation trust	4.48	15 years	358
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	4.40	25 years	2,578
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	3.94	25 years	153
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	2.98	10 years	0
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	2.67	4 years	115
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	2.92	5 years	154
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	2.86	10 years	0
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation trust.	4.85	10 years	1,144
Chesterfield royal Hospital NHS Foundation trust	2.84	10 years	0
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation trust	4.25	25 years	736
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation trust	4.30	10 years	250
Dartford and Gravesham NHS trust	1.90	5 years	0
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	4.85	12 years	1,447
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	5.05	15 years	402
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	2.45	10 years	0
Dorset Healthcare NHS Foundation trust	5.50	15 years	255
East and North Hertfordshire NHS trust	5.45	5 years	844
East and North Hertfordshire NHS trust	4.02	25 years	0
East Cheshire NHS trust	5.50	3 years	635
East Cheshire NHS trust	2.39	8 years	30
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS trust	2.39	6 years 2months	11
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS trust	2.28	6 years	0
East Sussex Hospitals NHS trust	3.48	10 years 3months	38
East Sussex Hospitals NHS trust	5.45	4 years	405
George Eliot Hospital NHS trust	5.45	3 years	689
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	4.95	25 years	1,972
Great Western Ambulance Service NHS trust	2.82	5 years 3months	49
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	5.45	4 years	304
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	4.69	25 years	17
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	4.08	5 years	141
Hereford Hospitals NHS trust	2.69	10 years	11
Hereford Hospitals NHS trust	5.50	3 years	298
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation trust	5.60	23 years	364
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation trust	4.90	10 years	81
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation trust	4.90	25 years	204
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS trust	3.65	20 years	225
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS trust	5.45	5 years	906
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS trust	4.07	24 years 8months	25
Ipswich Hospital NHS trust	5.35	7 years	2,663
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation trust	5.34	1 years	196
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation trust	5.21	20 years	129
London Ambulance service NHS trust	2.65	8 years	0
London Ambulance service NHS trust	2.73	8 years 2months	5
Mayday Healthcare NHS trust	5.50	3 years	999
Mid Essex Hospital services NHS trust	5.45	5 years	1,958
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS trust	5.29	3 years	1,526
Moorfields eye Hospital NHS Foundation trust	5.05	10 years	97
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation trust	4.65	25 years	270
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation trust	4.60	10 years	768
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation trust	4.50	10 years	273
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation trust	4.45	15 years	89
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation trust	4.40	25 years	823
Newham University Hospital NHS trust	1.90	5 years	0
Norfolk and Waveney NHS Foundation trust	3.87	20 years	113
North Bristol NHS trust	5.05	20 years	5,781
North Bristol NHS trust	4.02	25 years	0
North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS trust	5.20	13 years	1,447
North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS trust	5.10	14 years 6months	38
North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS trust	4.34	14 years	25
North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation trust	5.33	10 years	0
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS trust	5.45	5 years	1,622
North West London Hospitals NHS trust	5.45	5 years	2,577
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS trust	2.91	10 years	0
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS trust	5.40	6 years	2,231
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS trust	2.69	10 years	107
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS trust	4.19	10 years	366
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation trust	5.45	4 years	252

NHS trust name	*National loan fund rate (fixed for term) (percentage)*	*Term of loan (years/ months)*	*Interest paid to date (£000)*
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation trust	3.92	25 years	0
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation trust	5.55	5 years	358
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS trust	4.07	24 years 8months	48
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS trust	4.05	24 years 6months	0
Plymouth Hospitals NHS trust	2.69	10 years	94
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS trust	2.48	7 years 6months	0
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS trust	5.45	5 years	1,476
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS trust	4.86	8 years	279
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS trust	5.50	3 years	572
Rob Jones and A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS trust	4.85	10 years	41
Rob Jones and A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS trust	5.50	3 years	307
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation trust	4.12	18 years	247
Royal Bolton Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	5.50	3 years	409
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS trust	5.32	7 years	2,607
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS trust	1.16	2 years	15
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation trust	4.55	20 years	2,132
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation trust	5.05	25 years	980
Royal united Hospital Bath NHS trust	5.05	20 years	4,189
Salisbury NHS Foundation trust	1.88	5 years	0
Scarborough and North East Yorks NHS trust	5.45	5 years	827
Scarborough and North East Yorks NHS trust	5.20	4 years 6months	66
Scarborough and North East Yorks NHS trust	3.98	4 years	39
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	4.80	25 years	995
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS trust	5.50	3 years	1,116
South Central Ambulance service NHS trust	4.88	5 years	160
South Central Ambulance Service NHS trust	3.48	10 years 3months	89
South Central Ambulance Service NHS trust	1.90	5 years	0
South Warwickshire Gen Hosps NHS trust	5.35	8 years	2,041
Southampton University Hospitals NHS trust	4.85	10 years 6months	247
Southampton University Hospitals NHS trust	5.45	4 years	2,532
Southampton University Hospitals NHS trust	4.19	10 years	448
Southampton University Hospitals NHS trust	4.85	10 years	378
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS trust	1.90	5 years	0
St George's Healthcare NHS trust	5.45	5 years	3,675
St George's Healthcare NHS trust	5.20	4 years 6months	21
St George's Healthcare NHS trust	3.98	4 years	238
Stockport NHS Foundation trust	4.80	25 years	3,396
Stockport NHS Foundation trust	3.43	25 years	57
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS trust	4.95	25 years	4,999
The Rotherham NHS Foundation trust	2.57	10 years	0
The Rotherham NHS Foundation trust	3.23	20 years	160
Trafford Healthcare NHS trust	5.50	3 years	154
Trafford Healthcare NHS trust	4.19	10 years	179
University Hospital of South Manchester Foundation trust	3.51	20 years	89
University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire NHS trust	5.31	5 years	737
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS trust	5.50	3 years	513
Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation trust	5.50	3 years	758
Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation trust	4.88	5 years	209
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS trust	5.45	5 years	1,211
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS trust	5.40	10 years	798
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS trust	5.40	9 years 6months	710
West Middlesex University NHS trust	5.31	5 years	890
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS trust	5.50	3 years	177
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS trust	4.69	5 years	222
Western Sussex NHS trust	5.35	8 years	1,976
Western Sussex NHS trust	4.07	7 years	61
Western Sussex NHS trust	5.20	14 years	1,787
Western Sussex NHS trust	5.15	7 years 6months	99
Weston Area NHS trust	1.40	3 years	6
Weston Area NHS trust	5.32	7 years	808
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS trust	5.30	9 years	3,074
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS trust	5.45	4 years	507
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS trust	5.45	5 years	2,703

Obesity: Magnetic Resonance Imagers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS patients who were too obese to fit into a magnetic resonance imaging scanner in the last 12 months; and what alternative provision is available for such patients. [293181]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect information on the size of patients undergoing diagnostic imaging examinations using an magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner.

Immediately prior to an MRI scan, the patient's weight is determined in order to assess the appropriate scanning parameters. This will also establish if the patient may be accommodated by the particular MRI scanner. MRI scanners have table weight limits and aperture diameters which may differ between different manufacturers' models. In some instances, the imaging service may have an MRI scanner to accommodate an obese patient, but where they do not, the radiologist will select the most appropriate alternative imaging procedure, such as ultrasound.

Quality and Outcomes Framework

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in which geographical areas the 2011-12 Quality and Outcomes Framework pilot indicator studies will take place; [292798]

(2) what criteria were used to select *(a)* the disease areas and *(b)* the geographical areas for inclusion in the pilot indicator studies for the 2011-12 Quality and Outcomes Framework. [292903]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Details of the geographical areas used for piloting potential indicators for inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) are a matter for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE intends to publish its recommendations on indicators for piloting in due course.

The criteria used for prioritisation of potential topics for inclusion in the QOF are set out in NICE's interim process guide for the development of indicators. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the list of 13 new indicators for inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework to be published. [292828]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 10 August, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its recommendations on indicators for potential inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework for financial year 2010-11. The recommendations included the introduction of four new indicators and the retirement of eight existing indicators.

NICE has also published details of indicators in development and in need of further review on its website. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

Rohypnol

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases were recorded of *(a)* women and *(b)* men being admitted to hospital following non-consenting consumption of Rohypnol in England in each of the last five years. [292318]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 13 October 2009]:* Information about how many cases were recorded of women and men being admitted to hospital following non-consenting consumption of Rohypnol in England is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to primary care trusts on the testing of admitted patients suspected of being given Rohypnol or associated drugs. [292319]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 13 October 2009]:* While there is no specific guidance on the testing of admitted patients suspected of being given Rohypnol or associated drugs, guidance and training about testing patients who have been sexually assaulted is available to health care professionals on the Care and Evidence website at:

www.careandevidence.org/2b.asp

The taskforce on the health aspects of Violence Against Women and Girls is currently examining how the national health service can improve the way it meets the needs of victims of sexual assault.

Tuberculosis

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* location, *(b)* date of diagnosis, *(c)* date of completion of treatment, *(d)* age, *(e)* occupation and *(f)* suspected cause of infection was of each person who contracted Mycobacterium bovis in each of the last 10 years; and how many persons were diagnosed [illegible]th tuberculosis complex in each such year. [293850]

Ann Keen: The available information is shown in the following tables. The exact location is not available because of the risk of deductive disclosure. These data are available by strategic health authority (SHA) region. Data are therefore presented by SHA region.

Table 1: Isolates of Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis) from humans by region, England, 1998 to 2007

	Year										
Region	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
East Midlands	3	5	0	3	0	1	2	1	3	1	19
East of England	3	3	1	2	3	1	1	3	3	1	21
London	6	3	4	6	2	5	5	4	4	5	44
North East[1]	—	—	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	1	8
Yorkshire and the Humber[1]	—	—	4	3	2	1	0	2	1	1	14
Northern and Yorkshire[1]	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
North West	1	3	1	1	0	1	2	1	3	2	15
South East	3	4	2	0	4	2	0	3	3	5	26
South West	5	8	5	3	3	2	0	2	6	4	38
West Midlands	1	1	2	3	3	2	2	6	2	4	26
England	24	28	19	24	17	15	14	24	26	23	214

[1] Change of region boundaries 1 April 2002 (boundaries recalculated for 2000 and 2001).

Source:

M. bovis database 27 October 2008, Health Protection Agency (HPA)

The data on date of diagnosis and date of completion of treatment are not available because they are not part of HPA routine data outputs.

Table 2: Isolates of Mycobacterium bovis in humans by age group, United Kingdom, 1998 to 2007

	Age group (years)				
	0 to 14	*15 to 44*	*45 to 64*	*65+*	*Total*[1]
1998	0	7	10	21	38
1999	0	8	16	17	41
2000	0	7	10	12	29
2001	0	5	8	20	33
2002	0	3	2	13	18
2003	1	2	6	12	21
2004	0	8	3	9	20
2005	0	12	10	17	39
2006	0	7	4	22	33
2007	0	9	3	15	27
Total	1	68	72	158	299

[1] Where age was known.

Source:

M. bovis database 27 October 2008, HPA

These data are also available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1225700808961

The data on occupation and suspected cause of infection of each person who contracted M. bovis are not available because they are not part of the HPA routine data outputs.

Table 3: Number of culture confirmed cases with Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (MTB) complex, UK, 1998 to 2007

	Culture confirmed cases[1] *of MTB complex*	*All TB cases*
1998	3,059	5,658
1999	2,980	5,704
2000	3,016	6,323
2001	3,373	6,652
2002	3,833	6,861
2003	3,922	6,970
2004	4,225	7,321
2005	4,594	8,113
2006	4,702	8,113
2007	4,511	8,009

[1] Notifications in ETS with matches to MycobNet laboratory data (culture confirmed results)

Source:

Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance (ETS) and MycobNet, HPA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 6.02 in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/09, Crime in England and Wales 2008-09, what proportion of offences in each offence group has resulted in *(a)* a charge or summons, *(b)* a caution, *(c)* a Penalty Notice for Disorder and *(d)* an offence taken into consideration, in each year since 2002-03. [289594]

Alan Johnson: The information requested for the 10 offence groups and the overall total has been provided in the following table.

Percentage of offences recorded by specific method of detection and offence group

	Percentage of offences recorded resulting in:			
Offence group and financial year	*Charge or summons*	*Caution*	*Penalty notice for disorder*	*Offence taken into consideration*
Violence against the person				
2002-03	28	7	0	0
2003-04	26	7	0	0
2004-05	25	8	3	0
2005-06	25	12	6	0
2006-07	24	15	7	0
2007-08	26	16	7	0
2008-09	27	15	5	0
Sexual offences				
2002-03	28	4	0	0
2003-04	26	4	0	0
2004-05	24	4	0	0
2005-06	25	5	0	1
2006-07	24	5	0	0
2007-08	25	6	0	0
2008-09	26	5	0	0
Robbery				
2002-03	15	0	0	1
2003-04	16	0	0	1
2004-05	16	1	0	1
2005-06	16	1	0	1
2006-07	17	1	0	1
2007-08	18	1	0	1
2008-09	19	1	0	1
Burglary				
2002-03	7	0	0	4
2003-04	7	1	0	4
2004-05	7	1	0	5
2005-06	7	1	0	5
2006-07	7	1	0	6
2007-08	7	1	0	6
2008-09	7	1	0	6
Offences against vehicles				
2002-03	5	1	0	3
2003-04	4	1	0	3
2004-05	4	1	0	4
2005-06	4	1	0	5
2006-07	4	1	0	5
2007-08	5	1	0	5
2008-09	5	1	0	5
Other theft offences				
2002-03	14	4	0	1
2003-04	13	4	0	1
2004-05	12	5	0	1
2005-06	12	5	2	2
2006-07	11	6	3	2
2007-08	12	6	4	2
2008-09	14	6	4	2
Fraud and forgery				
2002-03	14	2	0	7
2003-04	14	3	0	6

Percentage of offences recorded by specific method of detection and offence group

Offence group and financial year	*Percentage of offences recorded resulting in:* Charge or summons	Caution	Penalty notice for disorder	Offence taken into consideration
2004-05	14	3	0	7
2005-06	16	4	0	7
2006-07	15	5	0	7
2007-08	17	7	0	7
2008-09	17	6	0	5
Criminal damage				
2002-03	7	3	0	0
2003-04	6	3	0	0
2004-05	6	3	0	0
2005-06	6	4	1	1
2006-07	6	5	2	1
2007-08	6	5	2	1
2008-09	7	5	1	1
Drug offences				
2002-03	51	34	0	0
2003-04	49	32	0	0
2004-05	39	34	0	0
2005-06	33	23	0	0
2006-07	30	21	0	0
2007-08	28	21	0	0
2008-09	30	20	0	0
Other offences				
2002-03	64	6	0	0
2003-04	60	7	0	0
2004-05	54	9	1	0
2005-06	57	9	1	0
2006-07	54	12	1	0
2007-08	57	13	0	0
2008-09	59	12	0	0
Total				
2002-03	13	4	0	2
2003-04	13	4	0	2
2004-05	13	5	1	2
2005-06	13	6	2	2
2006-07	13	7	3	2
2007-08	14	7	3	2
2008-09	15	7	2	2

Crime: Statisti[illegible]

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work has been done to map levels of recorded crime in a given geographical area against different indicators of social deprivation in the last five years. [289591]

Alan Johnson: In the last five years, the Home Office has analysed levels of recorded crime by type of area and this information has been presented as graphs and text but not mapped.

In 2008, the Home Office published an analysis of recorded crime in local authority districts by type of area. Crime varies by area according to factors such as levels of social deprivation. These variations were explored using recorded crime by grouping local authority districts into clusters in relation to their population characteristics, such as the nature of employment and industry and socioeconomic characteristics, from the 2001 census (see Section 6.4, Crime in England and Wales 2007/08, http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0708.html).

Tables showing recorded crime figures at different geographic levels are also available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0809.html

This website allows users to download the recorded crime tables. This provides users with the recorded crime figures which they may then use for mapping levels of recorded crime against different indicators of social deprivation.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the supplementary table, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas: Recorded crime for seven key offences and BCS comparator 2007-08 to 2008-09 in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Crime in England and Wales 2008-09, for what reasons the number of total recorded offences are not provided for each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. [289597]

Alan Johnson: Following the introduction of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, data were only collected for six key offences for 1999-2000. From 2000-01 onwards data were collected for all offences at CDRP level but the supplementary tables continued to concentrate on the key offences.

Data for the total number of offences recorded at CDRP level are readily available and have been provided when requested for parliamentary questions and for inquiries from the general public.

The Home Office also makes available crime rates per head of population (including rates for total crime) at CDRP level in the form of crime maps for the years 2002/03 to 2008/09. This can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/ia/atlas.html

Data prior to 2002-03 are not directly comparable because of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002.

Crimes of Violence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 7.12 in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Crime in England and Wales 2008-09, how many offences of *(a)* wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (GBH) and *(b)* wounding or inflicting GBH without intent were carried out with a knife in 2008-09. [289595]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is given in the following table.

It should be noted that GBH offences for 2008-09 will not be comparable with those published for 2007-08. This is due to a change in the clarification rules for recording GBH with intent, and a change in the definition of GBH without intent. Under advice from the National Statistician the offences of GBH with and without intent and ABH and other injury were combined when published.

Further information is given in Box 2.1 on page 14 of Crime in England and Wales, 2008-09: Volume 1.

Number of GBH and ABH offences involving a knife or sharp instrument recorded by the police for 2008-09[1]

Police force	*Inflicting GBH with intent*	*Inflicting GBH without intent*	*Actual bodily harm and other injury*	*Total ABH and GBH Offences*
Cleveland	70	14	164	248
Durham	65	3	42	110
Northumbria	145	48	422	615
North East Region	280	65	628	973
Cheshire	70	17	354	441
Cumbria	26	3	31	60
Greater Manchester	571	13	544	1,128
Lancashire	286	14	246	546
Merseyside	287	12	132	431
North West Region	1,240	59	1,307	2,606
Humberside	108	8	133	249
North Yorkshire	28	10	39	77
South Yorkshire	202	15	157	374
West Yorkshire	322	71	693	1,086
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	660	104	1,022	1,786
Derbyshire	88	10	189	287
Leicestershire	123	26	143	292
Lincolnshire	47	4	45	96
Northamptonshire	99	50	172	321
Nottinghamshire	162	8	225	395
East Midlands Region	519	98	774	1,391
Staffordshire	94	14	211	319
Warwickshire	62	23	88	173
West Mercia	78	7	52	137
West Midlands	556	304	859	1,719
West Midlands Region	790	348	1,210	2,348
Bedfordshire	64	4	127	195
Cambridgeshire	116	11	99	226
Essex	158	8	181	347
Hertfordshire	60	13	3	76
Norfolk	28	0	30	58
Suffolk	56	22	150	228
East of England Region	482	58	590	1,130
London, City of	6	1	9	16
Metropolitan Police	2,168	592	1,968	4,728
London Region	2,174	593	1,977	4,744
Hampshire	119	52	295	466
Kent	158	20	161	339
Surrey	26	1	60	87
Sussex	130	36	324	490
Thames Valley	112	46	413	571
South East Region	545	155	1,253	1,953
Avon and Somerset	195	13	288	496
Devon and Cornwall	144	32	358	534
Dorset	9	2	15	26
Gloucestershire	27	7	64	98
Wiltshire	32	7	95	134
South West Region	407	61	820	1,288
England	7,097	1,541	9,581	18,219
Dyfed-Powys	40	4	21	65
Gwent	73	17	80	170
North Wales	65	19	81	165
South Wales	101	10	134	245
Wales	279	50	316	645
British Transport Police	16	6	54	76
England and Wales	7,392	1,597	9,951	18,940

[1] Includes racially or religiously aggravated wounding or inflicting GBH.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response his Department has made to the report by Chris Taylor of the UK Border Agency on travel permits from Pakistan; what the principal conclusions of the report were; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library. [291205]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: A member of staff in the Islamabad visa section was asked in 2006 to conduct an internal review of a number of visa cases for the purpose of maintaining and improving processes and decision-making. This was part of routine procedure to monitor and continuously improve performance. As such, the observations made in the review were one of many contributions to the continuous business improvement process within UKBA International Group, previously UK Visas.

As a result of this process, there have been significant improvements made to visa processing in Pakistan since 2006, for example:

In 2007 we began recording biometrics of all Pakistani visa applicants, which are cross-checked against UK Police and immigration databases.

We have increased verification checks on key documentation. For example, all education certificates are verified with the Pakistan Higher Education Commission.

We have improved our risk profiling of Pakistani visa applications, meaning that extra checks are made on applications considered higher risk.

We have introduced the Points Based System, which has consolidated about 80 immigration routes into a five tier system and introduced still tougher standards on UK employers and colleges seeking to bring migrants into the UK.

Since the beginning of 2007, we have provided counter-terrorism and forgery training to all entrance clearance and intelligence staff being posted overseas.

We have run specific counter-terrorism training sessions in high risk posts, including Islamabad.

In 2008 we introduced paragraph 320 7a and 7b into the immigration rules which allows entrance clearance staff to ban those who use forged or fraudulent documents in visa applications from entering the UK for up to 10 years.

As a result of these and other actions, refusal rates for visa applications for Pakistani nationals have risen 14 per cent. since 2006 (32 per cent. in 2006 to 46 per cent. in 2008-09).

Forced Marriage

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations in England and Wales in receipt of Government funding undertake work relating to forced marriage; and how much each has received from the Government in each of the last three years. [293426]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The following table contains information on organisations dealing with issues concerning forced marriage who received Government funding over the past three years.

£

Government Department	*Organisation funded*	*Purpose of funding*	*Amount funded in 2007-08*	*Amount funded in 2008-09*	*Amount funded in 2009-10*	*Total funding*
Forced marriage Unit	Changing lives	Peer support to victims of FM and HBV	7,000	—	—	7,000
Forced marriage Unit	Karma Nirvana	Survivors Network and male victim support officer (2008-09)	15,000	28,000	—	43,000
Forced marriage Unit	Iranian, Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)	Campaign on FM targeting Iranian, Kurdish and Arabic communities	—	28,000	—	28,000
Forced marriage Unit	Dali Project (Birmingham)	Training for education welfare officers	—	2,516	—	2,516
Forced marriage Unit	Refuge	Study on service provision	—	6,635	—	6,635
Forced marriage Unit	Ethnic Minority Foundation	Website for young people	—	25,000	—	25,000
Forced marriage Unit	ACPO	Training DVD on FM	—	—	10,000	10,000
Forced marriage Unit	Domestic Programme Fund	8 organisations—yet to be announced	—	—	84,000	84,000
GEO	Ethnic Minority Foundation	Forcedmarriage.net website	—	6,000	—	6,000
MoJ	11 organisations	Forced Marriage IDVA pilot	—	—	—	220,000
OCJR Victim and Witness Unit	Thames Valley LCJB	Victim support and service delivery	14,600	15,000	—	29,600
OCJR Victim and Witness Unit	Cleveland LCJB	'Way Forward' network	—	—	10,000	10,000
Government Funding to Regional Government Offices and Welsh Assembly Government						
Welsh Assembly Government	South Wales Police	FM leaflets and training	4,000	9,000	—	13,000
Welsh Assembly Government	Henna Foundation	Conference	—	—	12,000	12,000
Government Office for the South West	Safer Bristol	training package	—	2,740	4,600	7,340
Government Office for the South West	Bristol Somali Development Group	FM support and counselling programme	—	—	10,000	10,000

£

Government Department	*Organisation funded*	*Purpose of funding*	*Amount funded in 2007-08*	*Amount funded in 2008-09*	*Amount funded in 2009-10*	*Total funding*
Government Office for the North East	Cleveland Police	Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Conference	2,000	—	—	2,000
Government Office for the North East	Safe in Tees Valley and Central Office of Information	Forced Marriage Conference and related promotional activity	—	5,985	—	5,985
Government Office for the North East	Cleveland Police	Conference to launch Honour Based Violence helpline	—	6,757	—	6,757
Government Office for the North East	Karma Nirvana	Establish and manage regional Honour Network to support forcedly marriage victims	—	27,930	—	27,930
	North Tyneside CDRP(via PSV)	Training from Karma Nirvana	—	—	3,500	3,500
Government Office for the North East	Northumberland CDRP(via PSV)	County wide FM road show	—	—	2,000	2,000
		HBV training	1,500	—	—	1,500
	Sunderland CDRP (via PSV)	Consultation with Karma Nirvana	—	4,000	—	4,000
	Durham CDRP (via PSV)	FM training	—	10,000	—	10,000
Government Office for the East	Safer Luton Partnership	Contribution to set up of project to support victims of HBV and FM in Luton	—	10,000	—	10,000
Year Totals			42,600	199,053	356,100	—
Total				587,753		

[1] Min £20,000 per organisation.

Sentencing: Homicide

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Sentencing Guidelines Council on the length of sentences for murder committed by members of gangs. [292793]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

I have had no discussions with the Sentencing Guidelines Council on the length of sentences for murder committed by gangs. I have consulted the Council on the review of the starting point for determining the minimum term for murder using a knife and I await its formal response. Guidance on setting the minimum term to be served for murder is set out in Schedule 21 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the Council guideline on the overarching principle of seriousness states that offenders operating in groups or gangs should be treated as an aggravating factor for the purposes of sentencing. I note that the Crown Court recently handed down sentences with 39 and 35 year minimum terms to the top members of a gang in Manchester and a 35 year minimum term for a gang member from Sheffield who ordered a murder from his prison cell.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cautions have been issued for sexual offences in each of the last 10 years. [289346]

Mr. Alan Campbell [*holding answer 12 October 2009*]: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of offenders cautioned for sexual offences, England and Wales 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 will be published in November 2009.

Number of offenders issued with a caution for sexual offences, England and Wales 1998 to 2007[1, 2]

	Number
1998	1,726
1999	1,469
2000	1,301
2001	1,240
2002	1,203
2003	1,339
2004	1,553
2005	1,764
2006	1,922
2007	1,966

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:
OCJR—Evidence and Analysis Unit
IOS ref: 382-09

Young Offenders

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 17, *(c)* 18 to 20 and *(d)* 21 years and over were (i) arrested, (ii) charged and (iii) convicted for (A) violent and (B) non-violent offences in each of the last five years. [289592]

Alan Johnson: Available information on numbers of persons arrested, broken down by age group is given in table A. The table covers the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08 (latest available). There is no link from these centrally reported data to any subsequent outcome. Data on arrests are published on a financial year basis.

Additionally, information provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for violent and non-violent offences, broken down by age group, in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in table B.

The Ministry of Justice does not centrally collect charging data; proceeded against data is provided in lieu. The court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice does not hold information on convictions and prosecutions data for persons aged under 10 who are under the age of liability. Data on court proceedings are published on a calendar year basis.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The court statistics provided by the Ministry of Justice relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Table A: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group and type of offence[1] 2003-04 to 2007-08: England and Wales

	Number of arrests[2]					
Notifiable offence group	*Aged under 10*	*Aged 10-17*	*Aged 18-20*	*Aged 21 and over*	*Age unknown*	*All ages*
2003-04						
Violent offences	100	83,000	56,900	256,000	900	396,800
Other offences	500	230,300	145,200	555,600	1,900	933,800
Total	700	313,200	202,200	811,700	2,700	1,330,400
2004-05[3]						
Violent offences	200	96,700	66,800	294,000	900	458,400
Other offences	500	236,100	137,000	519,500	1,900	894,900
Total	800	332,800	203,700	813,400	2,800	1,353,400
2005-06						
Violent offences	200	108,500	74,500	331,800	800	515,800
Other offences	500	239,900	140,300	531,100	2,000	914,000
Total	800	348,500	214,700	863,100	2,700	1,429,800
2006-07						
Violent offences	93	115,173	81,617	362,585	1,037	560,505
Other offences	353	238,197	144,293	536,643	2,165	921,651
Total	446	353,370	225,910	899,228	3,202	1,482,156
2007-08						
Violent offences	41	102,802	77,864	363,629	1,685	546,021
Other offences	122	212,599	145,759	568,021	2,744	929,245
Total	163	315,401	223,623	931,650	4,429	1,475,266

[1] Violent offences includes the offence categories of: violence against the person; sexual offences; robbery offences. Other offences includes the offence categories of: burglary; theft and handling stolen goods; fraud and forgery; .criminal damage; drug offences; other offences.

[2] Figures from 2003-04 to 2005-06 are rounded to the nearest 100 therefore figures for these years may not add up to the totals, subsequent years' figures are unrounded. Additionally, figures for violent and other offences may not be accurate due to the summing of rounded figures.

[3] Figures updated since publication of 2004-05 bulletin.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Table B: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to violent, and non violent offences, in England and Wales, by age group, 2003 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against					Found guilty				
Age group	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
10-17										
Violent offences	18,618	18,217	18,123	18,457	18,555	9,668	10,457	11,061	11,713	12,337
Non violent offences	122,172	118,445	113,608	107,732	107,979	82,873	85,733	85,096	81,976	85,104
18-20										
Violent offences	15,798	14,604	14,433	14,653	14,230	8,129	8,520	8,821	9,449	9,849
Non violent offences	205,968	191,682	174,739	165,256	158,361	154,359	148,231	137,806	133,612	130,763
21 and over										
Violent offences	68,049	60,914	57,853	53,953	50,938	31,897	32,438	32,938	33,708	33,669
Non violent offences	1,556,205	1,603,373	1,502,837	1,408,127	1,371,432	1,194,295	1,252,609	1,199,530	1,143,315	1,136,243
All ages										
Violent offences	102,465	93,735	90,409	87,063	83,723	49,694	51,415	52,820	54,870	55,855
Non violent offences	1,884,345	1,913,500	1,791,184	1,681,115	1,637,772	1,431,527	1,486,573	1,422,432	1,358,903	1,352,110

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data includes the following offence types:
Violent offences:
Violence against the person
Sexual Offences
Robbery
Non Violent offences:
Burglary
Theft and handling stolen goods
Fraud and forgery
Criminal damage
Drug offences
Other indictable offences
Indictable motoring offences
Summary offences (excluding motoring)
Summary motoring offences

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by CJEAU—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the stated aim of the Youth Crime Action Plan Initiative is; how much funding has been *(a)* distributed to and *(b)* spent by local authorities through the grant in each year since the grant's inception; and how much his Department expects to spend in the next two years; [292421]

(2) what categories of expenditure are covered by funding through the Youth Crime Action Plan Initiative grant; and what assessment has been made of the success of the funding against its objectives of *(a)* preventing youth offending, *(b)* reducing re-offending, *(c)* building public confidence and offering better support to young victims and *(d)* ensuring that those in the youth prison system are able to achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes. [292422]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Youth Crime Action Plan, published in July 2008, is the cross-Government strategy for dealing with the full range of issues around youth crime and justice through a triple track approach of prevention, non-negotiable support, and tough enforcement.

The action plan is backed by £100 million of new funding, including funding for 71 local areas to implement a package of intensive measures to address youth crime. In 2008-09, the 69 areas in England received a total of £4.5 million, plus an additional £1.7 million for positive activities on Friday and Saturday nights, and the areas report that this money has been spent in its entirety. The 69 areas will receive £24.2 million in 2009-10, plus an additional £1.4 million for summer alcohol activity, and a further indicative amount of £24.2 million in 2010-11. In addition, two areas in Wales will receive a total of £350,000 in 2009-10 and can expect the same in 2010-11 to implement the elements of the package that are non-devolved.

The action plan funding covers expenditure to support the triple track approach. For example, to provide support for families in the greatest difficulty; police and social workers taking unsupervised young people off the streets at night; and to ensure that more young offenders carry out unpaid work to repay their communities in their leisure time.

This action plan's achievements so far are set out in Youth Crime Action Plan One Year On, published in July 2009, and build on [illegible] Government's earlier successes which have seen recently a fall in the number of children entering the criminal justice system for the first time and a fall in the rate of reoffending.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Building Britain's Future

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many recent functions he has attended to promote the proposals contained in Building Britain's Future, Cm 7654. [290431]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I attended one official function for Building Britain's Future which took place on 16 July 2009 in Swindon.

JUSTICE

Burges Salmon Solicitors

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Solicitors Regulation Authority expects to complete its investigation of Burges Salmon LLP; and whether he expects the adjudication process to be expedited in that case. [290072]

Bridget Prentice: Although the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) does not usually comment on ongoing investigations, it is aware that matters relating to this particular investigation are already in the public domain. The SRA has informed me that it is giving high priority to this case. The SRA considers the investigation to be complex but expects it to be completed within a few months, at which time a decision will be made about appropriate action.

Channel Islands: Tidal Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 359W, on British Overseas Territories: renewable energy, what progress has been made by the Islands of Jersey and Guernsey in establishing tidal energy commissions. [293421]

Mr. Wills: Guernsey has put in place a 'shadow' Renewable Energy Commission. In June 2009 the States of Guernsey directed the drafting of legislation for arranging the licensing of the operation and deployment of macro renewable energy systems in Guernsey. The intention is to establish a commission by the end of 2010.

Jersey has put in place a 'shadow' Tidal Power Commission that is looking at the feasibility of harvesting offshore renewable energy resources. Should this appear economically viable they will make recommendations to Jersey Ministers in respect of the composition of the Tidal Power Commission and the commercial, fiscal and legislative regimes necessary to regulate the harvesting of this resource.

Councillors: Data protection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on whether councillors are required to register individually under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. [292638]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the UK's independent authority with responsibility for enforcing the Data Protection Act 1998 and administering the register of data controllers under that Act. The ICO produces guidance to help individuals and organisations understand their rights and obligations and has published a good practice note entitled "Advice for the elected and prospective members of local authorities" which includes advice on the issue of councillors' notification under section 18 of the Act. This advice is available on the ICO's website and I have placed a copy in the Library.

Crown Dependencies: Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison *(a)* capacity and *(b)* population is in each of the British Crown Dependencies. [293450]

Mr. Wills: The maximum capacity of prisons in the Crown Dependencies is as follows: HMP La Moye (Jersey) 258, Guernsey Prison 122, and 138 on the Isle of Man. On 13 October 2009 their prison populations were 187, 72 and 110 respectively. The capacity of each prison is restricted in terms of limits on male, female and special categories.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292067]

Mr. Wills: In 1997 the Ministry of Justice's predecessor was the Lord Chancellor's Department, which had responsibility for appointing and advising on the appointment of judges, running the court system and a certain number of tribunals and assisting in the reform of the English law. To this end it controlled the Public Trust Office, the Courts Service, the Official Solicitor's Office, the Office of the Judge Advocate General, the Legal Aid Board and several more government agencies.

Since 1997 there has been a number of machinery of government changes, which resulted in the establishment of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007. These changes included the establishment of the Department for Constitutional Affairs from the Lord Chancellors Department in June 2003; the creation of Her Majesty's Courts Service from the Magistrates Courts Service and the Courts Service in April 2005; the setting up of the Tribunals Service from other Government Departments in April 2006; and the transfer of HM Prison Service, as part of the National Offender Management Service, with the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007.

Along with the organisational changes, the management information systems and the data they hold have been subject to significant change. As a consequence, information on numbers of staff in all the Department's predecessors for 1997 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, it is possible to provide for 1 April 1997 published information on civil service staff numbers from the Cabinet Office website. The number of full-time equivalent staff recorded as working within the Lord Chancellor's Department was 10,652 and for HM Prison Service it was 37,704.

The latest staff figures for the Ministry of Justice are published quarterly by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and they form part of their public sector employment statistics. The latest published data for the Ministry of Justice (30 June 2009) are set out in the table. The table provides full-time equivalent (FTE) figures for the Ministry of Justice (as published by the ONS).

Staff numbers (FTEs) as at 30 June 2009

	Number
MOJ HQ	3,020
NOMS[1]	50,660
HMCS	18,940
Tribunals Service	2,850
Office of the Public Guardian	360
Scotland Office	110
Wales Office	60
Total[2]	76,000

[1] The figures for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) refer to HQ and directly employed staff in public sector prisons only. They do not include the National Probation Service where the responsibility for staffing lies with the 42 areas and trusts who employ these staff.

[2] The total figures do not include the Land Registry (5,860) or National Archives (630) recorded by the ONS under the category of Justice. These agencies are not reported as part of the Ministry of Justice's departmental annual report.

Family Courts

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which family courts have plans to hold open days. [291658]

Bridget Prentice: Open days are held by many courts across HMCS covering a broad range of jurisdictions including family. The extent and regularity of these are determined locally, by local managers, according to local needs, and there is no central record kept of past events or future plans.

Fraud: Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions which resulted in a conviction there have been for offences related to credit card fraud in each of the last three years. [293487]

Claire Ward: There is no specific offence of credit card fraud. Prior to January 2007 persons involved in this type of activity are likely to have been prosecuted under the deception offences in the 1968 and 1978 Theft Acts relating to obtaining property by deception. From January 2007 offenders are likely to have been proceeded against under the various fraud offences contained in the Fraud Act 2006. The common law offence of conspiracy to defraud might also be relevant, depending on the circumstances of the case. Data covering offences under the relevant sections of these acts for the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts in England and Wales, for the years 2005 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences relating to fraud, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[1,2,3,4]

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Proceeded against	9,955	7,983	8,200
Found guilty	7,625	6,266	6,107

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Defendants may be proceeded against in one year and found guilty in the following year.

[4] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence description:
Theft Act 1968 Sec 15.
Obtaining property by deception.
Theft Act 1978 Sec 1.
Obtaining services by deception (except railway frauds).
Common Law.
Conspiracy to defraud.
Fraud Act 2006 S.1(2a)(3)(4) & 2
Dishonestly makes a false representation to make a gain for himself or another or to cause loss to another or to expose another to a risk.
Fraud Act 2006 S.1(2b)(3)
Dishonestly fails to disclose information to make a gain for himself or another or to cause loss to another or to expose another to a risk.
Fraud Act 2006 S.6
Possession etc. of articles for use in frauds
Fraud Act 2006 S.7
Make, adapt, supply or offer to supply any article knowing that it is designed or adapted for use in the course of or in connection with fraud, or intending it to be used to commit or facilitate fraud
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Human Trafficking

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what services will be available for trafficked women under the Poppy project in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [292800]

Claire Ward: The Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking which the Government ratified in December last year commits the UK to provision of sheltered accommodation for all those trafficked women who need it.

The Government have consequently invested £4million into specialist support services for victims of human trafficking over the next two years. This includes an investment of £3.7 million into the Poppy project to expand and improve the services that are available to victims that have been trafficked into the sex-industry and domestic servitude. The additional investment will see an expansion of supported accommodation, with refuge places for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude in London, Sheffield and Cardiff. The investment will also fund a new national co-ordinator who will help set best practice standards and work with areas to raise awareness with local agencies and funding commissioners. There will also be an increase in advocacy workers to help provide one-to-one tailored support and the community outreach team will also be extended with two link workers based within the UK Human Trafficking Centre to work in partnership with the police, UK Border Agency and other partners to help with victim identification and onward referral into support.

Additionally, £300,000 is being invested into the UK Human Trafficking Centre to develop flexible support services for victims of labour trafficking.

Trafficked women in the City of Newcastle upon Tyne can therefore access the full range of support provided by the Poppy project; including tailored support from the community outreach team and if needed, be relocated to supported accommodation in the identified locations, safety permitting.

Legal Profession: Fees and charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many clients have been represented by no-win no-fee solicitors in employment tribunals in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [292601]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) does not hold the information requested. A survey of Employment Tribunal Applications (SETA) conducted by the (then) Department of Trade and Industry in 2003 suggests that damages-based agreements funded 11 per cent. of cases. A further survey was conducted in 2008 the results of which are expected to be published later this year.

Means Warrants: Greater London

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent assessment is of the monetary value of means warrants written off in Greater London in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [290080]

Bridget Prentice: The total values of financial penalties administratively cancelled by the HMCS London area in the last five years are shown in the table.

	Amount administratively cancelled (£)
2008-09	21,154,762.19
2007-08	14,299,628.59
2006-07	13,157,208.52
2005-06	573,379.42
2004-05	1,038,403.34

The amount shown equates to all administratively cancelled financial penalties not just the monetary value of means warrants which have been written off. The Department is unable to provide data solely relating to means warrants without incurring disproportionate costs.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293472]

Mr. Wills: No non-departmental public bodies sponsored by the Ministry of Justice sent representatives to any of the political party conferences in 2009.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will ask each of the three participating political parties if they will consent to place all background papers and minutes from the inter-party talks on the funding of political parties in the public domain; and if he will place in the Library a copy of those papers. [292599]

Mr. Straw: As I said in the debate on the publication of the White Paper, Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom, on 16 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 695 release of these papers is a matter for Sir Hayden Phillips, not the Government.

Prisons: Drugs

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there was any discrepancy between the number of drugs received into prison pharmacies in England and Wales and the number prescribed in these prisons in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and what arrangements are in place for regular auditing to verify such information. [292604]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally. The responsibility for commissioning offender health services in publicly run prisons in England has been fully devolved to national health service primary care trusts since 2006 and as such pharmacy services are commissioned locally.

Local clinical audit and governance is in place for offender medication management as in the wider NHS.

Prisons: Manpower

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which staff *(a)* grades, *(b)* rates of pay and *(c)* vacancies there were in the prison service in each of the last three years; what his Department's policy on recruitment in the prison service has been in each such year; if he will consider proposals for a new prison officer grade, including rate of pay; and if he will make a statement. [292436]

Maria Eagle: The grades at which staff were employed in HM Prison Service is shown in the following table together with the maximum and minimum rate of pay for each grade or payband in each year of the last three years.

	2006-07		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
Grade	*Min*	*Max*	*Min*	*Max*	*Min*	*Max*
Sen Man A	60,442	78,832	60,442	80,858	62,515	82,071
Sen Man B	55,528	76,793	55,528	78,483	58,165	79,661
Sen Man C	53,357	69,157	53,357	70,679	55,060	71,740
Sen Man D	44,589	63,535	44,589	64,933	41,725	60,433
Manager E	29,184	43,927	29,184	44,894	31,210	45,568
Manager F	26,280	37,262	26,280	38,082	27,690	38,654
Manager G	23,434	30,676	23,434	31,351	24,235	31,822
Prison Officer	17,744	27,530	18,135	28,136	18,135	28,643
Senior Officer	29,371	29,371	30,165	30,165	30,708	30,708
Principal Officer	30,926	31,913	31,762	32,616	31,762	33,204
Asst stores person	12,796	13,847	12,796	14,152	12,796	14,407
Auxiliary	12,008	13,318	12,008	13,611	12,008	13,856
Night patrol	12,726	14,084	12,726	13,611	12,008	13,856
OSG	14,767	17,371	15,092	17,754	15,092	18,074
Stores person	13,698	14,942	13,698	15,271	13,698	15,546
Admin Asst	12,376	14,089	12,626	14,372	12,626	14,372
Admin Offr	14,444	19,877	14,762	20,315	14,762	20,315
Catering Manager	21,525	27,348	21,525	27,348	21,525	27,348
Chaplain Band 1	23,082	35,799	23,082	35,799	23,082	35,799
Chaplain Band 2	20,277	31,447	20,277	31,447	20,277	31,477
Drugs worker	18,536	22,291	18,536	22,291	18,536	22,291
Exec Officer	21,419	24,143	21,998	24,795	21,998	24,795
Farm Manager	21,525	27,348	21,525	27,348	21,525	27,348
Instructional Off	17,989	23,666	17,989	23,666	17,989	23,666
Medical Officer	51,267	61,045	51,267	61,045	51,267	61,045
Personal Sec	14,810	19,877	15,136	20,315	15,136	20,315
Prof & Tech Offr	20,996	26,675	20,996	26,675	20,996	26,675
Psych asst	14,444	19,290	14,444	19,290	14,444	19,290
Scientific Officer	18,444	25,632	18,444	25,632	18,444	25,632
Senior Med Offr	54,159	70,897	54,159	70,897	54,159	70,897
Senior Pers Sec	21,419	23,430	21,998	24,063	21,998	24,063
SGB1	14,089	15,412	14,372	15,723	14,372	15,723
SGB2	12,563	14,089	12,816	14,372	12,816	14,372
SGB2 cleaner	12,012	13,139	12,253	13,404	12,253	13,404
Stores Officer C	19,680	25,000	19,680	25,000	19,680	25,000
Stores Officer D	18,170	23,082	18,170	23,082	18,170	23,082
Tech Grade 1	18,170	23,082	18,170	23,082	18,170	23,082
Trainee Psych	17,285	19,581	17,285	19,581	17,285	19,581
Typing Manager	21,419	23,430	21,998	24,063	21,998	24,063
Typist	12,563	15,412	12,816	15,723	12,816	15,723
Ind 1 pattern A	19,166	20,967	19,651	21,496	19,651	21,496
Ind 1 pattern B	22,041	24,1[illegible]	22,599	24,721	22,599	24,721
Ind 1 pattern C	24,916	27,258	25,547	27,945	25,547	27,945
Ind 2 pattern A	17,696	19,553	18,143	20,047	18,143	20,047
Ind 2 pattern B	20,351	22,486	20,865	23,055	20,865	23,055
Ind 2 pattern C	23,005	25,419	23,586	26,062	23,586	26,062
Ind 3 pattern A	16,836	17,874	17,261	18,325	17,261	18,325
Ind 3 pattern B	19,362	20,556	19,851	21,074	19,851	21,074
Ind 3 pattern C	21,887	23,237	22,440	23,823	22,440	23,823
Ind 4 pattern A	14,862	16,177	15,237	16,587	15,237	16,587
Ind 4 pattern B	17,092	18,604	17,523	19,076	17,523	19,076
Ind 4 pattern C	19,321	21,031	19,089	21,564	19,809	21,564
Ind 5 pattern A	14,000	15,314	14,353	15,700	14,353	15,700
Ind 5 pattern B	16,100	17,612	16,506	18,055	16,506	18,055
Ind 5 pattern C	18,200	19,909	18,659	20,410	18,659	20,410

Note:

The figures (shown in £ sterling) do not include location, unsocial hours or other allowances, overtime or other additional payments.

The pay and allowances of operational grades within HM Prison Service (officers and operational managers) is subject to annual review by the Prison Service Pay Review Body (PSPRB). The pay and allowance of other grades are set through collective bargaining.

Vacancy data were not collated centrally or subject to full data assurance until recently although the information was created in local business units. Reliable data available nationally show that the number of vacancies across prisons and NOMS headquarters, reported on 31 March 2009, was 2,564. Data from earlier years could be collected only by requesting information from a large number of business units, which would entail disproportionate cost.

Recruitment policies within the Prison Service and NOMS have undergone significant change to use information technology better and administer processes through a shared service centre. As a result most of the pre and post assessment recruitment activity takes place on line and has been centralised. Prison officers are the largest group of staff recruited, reflecting increases in prison capacity, and recruitment activity for this group of staff has been streamlined so that application and initial testing occurs on-line followed by a single day assessment event that includes work based simulations and a fitness test.

All new prison officers appointed on or after 1 October 2009 are subject to new terms and conditions based on a 37 hour week with associated new rates of pay. There are two paybands for new Prison Officers, depending on the role undertaken. All new Prison Officers start employment in the Prison Officer 2 core officer role in the lower payband.

The total appointment salary for new appointments in Prison Officer 2 roles is £17,1871. This is composed of £14,690 base pay plus £2,497 for unsocial hours working. This rate may be reviewed by the PSPRB as part of their annual review of Prison Service salaries. These new staff may elect to work up to four additional hours on top of the standard 37 net hours per week. These additional hours will be paid at an enhanced rate to reflect they are non-pensionable. In parts of the country, officers will receive a location allowance also.

Secure Accommodation: Secure Training Centres

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the maximum capacity is of each *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution; what the occupancy rate of each is; and if he will make a statement. [292607]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of contracted places at each *(a)* secure children's home (SCH), *(b)* secure training centre (STC), and *(c)* young offender institution (YOI) in the under-18 secure estate. The occupancy rate of each, as at 9 October 2009, is shown as a percentage. Data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative computer systems.

	Contracted places	*Occupancy rate (percentage)*
SCHs		
Aldine House	4	50
Atkinson Unit	3	67
Aycliffe	30	73
Barton Moss	20	85
Clayfields House	12	100
Eastmoor	34	97
Hillside	15	93
Kyloe House	3	67
Lincolnshire	9	100
Redbank	28	86
Swanwick Lodge	12	92
Vinney Green	21	79
STCs		
Hassockfield	58,	62
Medway	76	76
Oakhill	80	91
Rainsbrook	87	79
YOIs		
Contracted Places	Occupancy rate (%)	
Ashfield	400	69
Brinsford	112	90
Castington	168	86
Cookham Wood	157	62
Downview	16	88
Eastwood	16	100
Feltham	240	85
Foston Hall	16	100
Hindley	440	76
Huntercombe	360	64
New Hall	26	73
Parc	64	97
Stoke Heath	202	63
Warren Hill	222	94
Werrington	160	84
Wetherby	408	83

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases have been processed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority in each year since its creation; and how many such cases resulted in *(a)* no further action decision and *(b)* sanctions against a solicitor. [290069]

Bridget Prentice: The information I have received from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) states that over 18,000 investigations have been concluded since its creation in January 2007. This breaks down as follows:

Date	*Number of cases*
2007	[1]6,883
2008	[2]7,341
2009 (January to June)	[3]3,838

[1] A monthly average of 573.6
[2] A monthly average of 611.8
[3] A monthly average of 639.7

Where regulatory action is deemed appropriate, outcomes for these investigations can be categorised in one of three ways. First a sanction may be applied with no action required or secondly the case may be referred to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal or thirdly a case is closed due to ongoing action elsewhere. The SRA has provided me with a break down of sanctions against solicitors for this period. These are as follows:

	Number regulatory action required	*Percentage of cases*	*Sanction applied*	*Percentage of cases*	*Disciplinary referral/ ongoing action*	*Percentage of cases*
2007	5,257	76	960	14	666	10
2008	5,750	78	784	11	807	11
2009[1]	2,956	77	408	11	474	12

[1] January to June

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time taken by the Solicitors Regulation Authority to determine a case was in the latest period for which figures are available. [290070]

Bridget Prentice: The information I have received from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) states that, based on a total number of 3,838 cases closed between January and June 2009, standard cases were closed within 3.1 months on average. This includes time taken for referral for adjudication where necessary.

The SRA has further explained that, where allegations are assessed as being high-risk, and it is deemed necessary to do so, field-based investigations may be undertaken. Based on 211 such investigations concluded between January and June 2009, these cases took an average of 9.8 months from authorisation to completion, including the issue of a report where necessary. In addition, 11 extremely complex cases were concluded within this period, taking an average of 16.0 months to complete.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time is between the determination of a case by the Solicitors Regulation Authority and its conclusion by adjudication in the latest period for which figures are available. [290071]

Bridget Prentice: The information I have received from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) states that cases adjudicated upon internally are dealt with either by an individual adjudicator or a panel of adjudicators. Over 1,000 adjudications took place in between January and June 2009. Decisions by an individual adjudicator had a turnaround time of 23 days on average (0.8 months). An adjudication panel decision took an average of 34 days (1.1 months).

Matters referred for disciplinary proceedings may be combined with others into single cases brought before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT). It takes an average of 184 days (6.0 months) to put these cases together, and the SDT then aims to schedule a hearing within six months of issue of proceedings.

Unpaid Fines

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was outstanding in unpaid fines to the courts in the latest year for which figures are available; and from how many people. [292507]

Bridget Prentice: At the end of the 2008-09 financial year there was a total of £545 million outstanding in unpaid financial penalties across England and Wales. Her Majesty's Courts Service systems do not identify the number of individuals to which the outstanding balance relates. The outstanding balance has risen through the application of a strict policy that only allows fines to be written off in certain circumstances. The outstanding balance includes fines imposed a number of years ago during the period when fines could not be cancelled (2004-06) and fines which are being paid by instalments.

The national payment rate for financial penalties at the end of the 2008-09 financial year was 85 per cent. and 71 per cent. excluding the value of administrative cancellations.

HMCS is currently implementing the 'Criminal Compliance and Enforcement Services—A Blueprint for 2008 to 2012' which was launched in July 2008 and is currently being implemented by all of the HMCS regions. The blueprint sets out HMCS's strategic objective which is for a cheaper, faster and more proportionate system that primarily focuses on 'first time' compliance while continuing to apply the principles of rigorous enforcement to the hard core of defaulters.

Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the documentation relating to Adapted C & R piloted in Feltham and Cookham Wood Young Offender Institutions in May 2006 and as referred to in paragraph 8.30 of the 2008 Independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings. [292605]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 181W.

A pilot of juvenile restraint techniques (JRT) for use on young people (15-17 year olds) commenced in May 2006. An interim evaluation report was produced in April 2007 and I have arranged for a copy of this to be placed in the House of Commons Library. Shortly after the completion of this report, the "Independent Review of the Use of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings" was announced and a decision was taken to suspend further work on JRT pending the outcome of the review.

The Government's response to the independent review was published in December 2008 and part of this announced the development of a more comprehensive system of restraint for young people as part of a wider behaviour management system. Piloting of this new system of restraint is expected to begin early next year.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the Prison Service review into the case for extending the use of the baton to young people's estates, as referred to in paragraph 8.39 of the 2008 Independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings. [292606]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 181W.

I have arranged for a copy of the Prison Service report, "Review of the Potential Use of the Baton in the Young People's Estate" to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Administration of Justice: Translation Service

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the National Framework Agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language service professionals within the criminal justice system applies to Northern Ireland. [292834]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 656W.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Heating

John Mann: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many buildings which will be used for the London 2012 Olympics will use heat generated by *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* ground source heat pumps. [292002]

Tessa Jowell: There are no plans to use solar panels or ground source heating pumps to heat the venues on the Olympic Park. Heat for these buildings will be provided from a purpose built Energy Centre and Community Energy Network. The Energy Centre comprises biomass boilers fuelled by renewable wood pellets and is designed to capture enough heat during the electricity production process to supply heating and hot water to all the buildings on the Olympic Park.

These measures are part of the Olympic Delivery Authority's strategic approach to energy supply on the Olympic Park, which seeks to achieve the ambitious target that carbon emissions from the built environment in the Park should be reduced by 50 per cent., against 2006 standards' levels, by 2013. The strategic approach includes designing permanent venues to make them 15 per cent. more energy efficient than the 2006 Building Regulations require and building a wind turbine that will produce the energy equivalent to supplying 1,000 homes over an average year.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Greater London

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the likely environmental impact of an airport located in the Thames Estuary. [293392]

Paul Clark: Options for offshore or coastal airports were considered extensively in the work leading to the Air Transport White Paper in 2003. A summary assessment of their impacts was presented in the report 'Development of Airport Capacity in the Thames Estuary', December 2003, available on the Department for Transport website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/air/docs/lopmentofairportcapacity5669.pdf

Gatwick Airport

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the Government's role is in establishing the future *(a)* operation and *(b)* ownership of Gatwick Airport; and if he will make a statement. [293849]

Paul Clark: Gatwick is a designated airport under the Airports Act 1986 and as such its future operation is a matter for its operator and the Civil Aviation Authority.

The sale of Gatwick airport was required by the Competition Commission following its investigation into the supply of airport services by BAA. The Competition Commission's requirements for any new owner of Gatwick were set out in detail in its report (which was published on 19 March 2009). These include that it should have appropriate expertise and financial resources to operate and develop the airport, as well as a sufficient degree of independence from BAA.

The sale is a commercial matter for BAA subject to it satisfying the Competition Commission's requirements. The Government have no formal role in the transaction and have no statutory powers to intervene in it. Department for Transport officials have ensured that the various bidders for the airport have had equal access to information on the regulatory context and broader aviation policy framework as it affects Gatwick. Officials have also shared information on these matters with the Competition Commission to assist in the Competition Commission's formal consideration of the suitability of various bidders.

BAA has challenged the legality of certain of the Competition Commission's findings, and its appeal is due to be heard by the Competition Appeals Tribunal on 19-21 October.

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons the number of new rail carriages originally planned for Northern Rail has been reduced. [290300]

Chris Mole: No decision has yet been made on the total number of vehicles that Northern Rail should add to its train fleet. The Department for Transport is currently working with Northern Rail on a first phase of additional rolling stock to address overcrowding issues.

Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether revenue raised by local authorities from *(a)* on-street parking charges and *(b)* parking fines is ring-fenced. [292586]

Mr. Khan: The revenue raised from on-street parking charges must be used in accordance with Section 55 (as amended) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which limits the use of surplus funds to transport related objectives or for environmental purposes.

Local authorities in England operating under the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) regime issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) for parking contraventions. The revenue raised from PCNs must also be used in accordance with Section 55 (as amended) of that Act. Where the local authority has not taken on the CPE powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to enforce parking contraventions, enforcement is carried out under criminal law by the Police who issue parking fines for parking offences. The revenue raised from parking fines goes to the Treasury.

Railway Stations: Ticket Offices

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many non-Transport for London railway station ticket offices in each London borough have *(a)* been closed and *(b)* had opening hours reduced in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [293059]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold this information in the form requested. Full details of National Rail ticket office opening hours are listed in Schedule 17 of the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA) and a copy of this document, for years 2005 to 2009, has been placed in the Library of the House.

A number of National Rail ticket offices in London have closed permanently as part of railway infrastructure improvement schemes:

King's Cross Thameslink station where the National Rail station closed as part of the Thameslink Programme. A new station and ticket office was opened at St. Pancras International.

Custom House, Silvertown and North Woolwich where the National Rail stations closed to enable an extension to the Docklands Light Railway to be built.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effects on passenger safety of the closure of railway station ticket offices on the First Connect line through Hornsey and Wood Green; and if he will make a statement. [293058]

Chris Mole: First Capital Connect (FCC) has followed the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement processes for changing ticket office opening hours. The Ticketing and Settlement Agreement is an inter-operator agreement which sets out, among other things, arrangements for ticket retailing. A safety assessment is not required under this Agreement.

Since the start of the franchise FCC has invested heavily or achieved the following:

Has achieved Secure Stations at all of their stations within the Greater London area;

Improved relationships and joint working with the British Transport Police to manage out crime and improve response to crime.

Railways: Standards

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what records his Department holds on the number of rail services which departed stations prior to their scheduled departure time in the last 12 months; what proportion of these services arrived at their destination on time; and if he will make a statement. [293599]

Chris Mole: Data on trains which may have departed from stations before their scheduled time are not held by the Department for Transport, but by Network Rail. Please contact Iain Coucher, chief executive of Network Rail, at the following address for this information:

Mr. Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG

Of all train arrivals, 91.3 per cent. arrived at their destination within the specified punctuality margin in the 12 months up to 19 September 2009.

TREASURY

Council Tax: Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2287W, on the Valuation Office Agency, on what date the Valuation Office Agency published its guidance on council tax bands and self-contained units. [293030]

Ian Pearson: Practice Note 5 of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) council tax manual contains the instructions giving guidance on council tax bands and self contained units. These instructions were published online when the VOA website was originally set up in January 2000.

A new fact sheet designed to assist the public in understanding council tax law on self-contained units was published in May 2007 and is also available on the VOA website.

Private Finance Initiative

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has given to Government departments on the fair valuation of risk and risk transfer in the evaluation of bids under the private finance initiative where *(a)* RBS and *(b)* Lloyds Banking Group are partners in such bids. [292799]

Ian Pearson: None. Guidance on public private partnerships in general is available on the Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_index.htm

Public Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, page 49, what his most recent estimate is of the projected levels of long-term funding for his Department in order to provide for the 2.25 per cent. real growth in the Long-Term Funding Guideline to 2018-19 set out in that document. [290160]

Mr. Byrne: Departmental budgets for the next spending review period will be set in due course.

Public Expenditure: Transport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, page 49, what his most recent estimate is of the projected levels of spending on transport to 2018-19. [290159]

Mr. Byrne: Departmental budgets for the next spending review period will be set in due course.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people would pay *(a)* more, *(b)* less and *(c)* the same for calls to HM Revenue and Customs helplines with 0845 prefixes if they were changed to numbers with 0300 prefixes. [293637]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold this information. The cost of calls to 0845 and other non geographical numbers is dependent on several factors. Calls are charged to the customer based on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use for the call and the location from which they call. There are therefore many hundreds of variations of call costs.

Stamp Duties

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of only levying stamp duty on the individual dwellings in a bulk rental purchase. [292901]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No such estimate has made.

Taxation: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether lump sum arrears of basic state pension paid under the reinstatement of deficiency notices project are taxable; and if he will make a statement. [292837]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not seek to assess any tax arising on arrears of state pension paid under reinstatement of deficiency notices.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what data sources the Valuation Office Agency uses to determine the plot size when gathering data on a dwelling. [292736]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) uses digital mapping software to calculate plot size.

Valuation Office: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records the Valuation Office Agency holds on the number of empty non-domestic properties on the Rating List. [292709]

Ian Pearson: Valuation Office records do not show whether non-domestic property entered in the rating lists in England and Wales are either occupied or unoccupied.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Government Equalities Office: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years are employed by the Government Equalities Office. [290384]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office employs less than five staff over the age of 55 and none over 65 years. The Government Equalities Office does not confirm numbers less than five in order that individuals may not be identified.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people on incapacity benefit have voluntarily joined Pathways to Work in each year for which information is available. [288619]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 July 2009]*: Official statistics on the number of participants in Pathways to Work are available up to January 2009, these are published at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/ib_ref_p2w.asp

We cannot estimate the proportion of the eligible population who have volunteered for Pathways each year without incurring disproportionate cost. We do, however, hold information of the number of volunteers in each year, up to January 2009. This is shown in the following table.

Number of individuals who volunteered for Pathways to Work

	Individual Jobcentre Plus starts	*Individual Provider starts*
October to December 2003	500	n/a
January to December 2004	7,500	n/a
January to December 2005	9,210	n/a
January to December 2006	11,870	n/a
January to December 2007	22,390	1,960
January to December 2008	13,620	61,760
January to end of January 2009	710	4,570

Note

A person is counted once in each year, though they may appear in several years. As a result, the total number of individuals which have volunteered for Pathways since its inception cannot be derived by adding the number of individuals which have volunteered each year.

Sources:

DWP Jobcentre Plus and Provider-Led databases

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 October 2009

TRANSPORT

Aviation Noise

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the appropriateness of charges made by the Civil Aviation Authority to re-license planes which have had silencers fitted; and if he will make a statement. [293669]

Paul Clark: The approval of silencers for civil aircraft is in most cases the responsibility of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). For aircraft not covered by EASA, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) would only become involved where they have not previously approved the modification to the aircraft type. In those cases the CAA will need to investigate the proposed modification as part of the approval process. The applicant will be charged for modification investigation in accordance with the CAA's published Airworthiness Scheme of Charges. The CAA charging schemes are reviewed annually in consultation with the Secretary of State for Transport.

Dartford Tunnel: Mobile Phones

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department plans to make mobile telephone coverage available in the Dartford Tunnel. [293858]

Chris Mole: Mobile phone coverage is already available in both bores of the Dartford tunnel.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to the economy of time spent by vehicles waiting to cross the Dartford Crossing; and if he will make a statement. [292761]

Chris Mole: A study commissioned by the Department for Transport in 2008 aggregated the delays for 2007 and converted them into a monetary sum using published values of time. This calculated the cost of delay at the Dartford Crossing at around £40 million per annum. The initial results of the study can be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/capacityrequirements/dartfordrivercrossing

The aggregate dwell time at the toll facilities is used to match flows to the capacity of the northbound tunnels.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the average time taken by a vehicle to cross the Dartford Crossing; and if he will make a statement. [292762]

Chris Mole: Between M25 junction 2 and M25 junction 30, which includes the Dartford Crossing the average journey northbound is 10 minutes 11 seconds and 11 minutes 40 seconds southbound. The data used are from August 1 to August 24 2009.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on waiting times for vehicles at the Dartford Crossing. [292763]

Chris Mole: In the six months from 1 April to 30 September 2009, the Department for Transport has received 69 items of ministerial correspondence specifically categorised as being about congestion and delays at the Dartford Crossing.

In addition, the Highways Agency has dealt itself with a further 40 e-mails, 23 letters and 76 telephone calls from members of the public.

Lorries: Safety

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of unsafe heavy goods vehicles on UK roads which are registered overseas; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce this number. [293859]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 16 October 2009]*: Foreign-registered vehicles represent around 3.5 per cent. of all heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic on Britain's roads. In 2008-09, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) checked 61,000 foreign-registered HGVs and found roadworthiness related concerns with 40 per cent. of them. This compares with 64,800 spot checks on UK registered HGVs where 32.6 per cent. were found to have roadworthiness related concerns.

The Government have introduced a number of measures to tackle non-compliance with the regulations. We have made an additional £24 million available to VOSA over a three-year period from 2008 to enable them to carry out more enforcement checks on HGVs on international journeys.

We have also introduced a new scheme to allow the police and VOSA to take on the spot financial deposits from offending drivers with no satisfactory address in the United Kingdom. In the first three months of operation, almost £700,000 has been collected from such drivers.

In addition, VOSA routinely informs the authorities of other EU member states about offences involving their commercial vehicle drivers.

Manchester-Burnley Railway Line

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made in reinstating the Todmorden Curve; and what estimate he has made of the cost of that work. [294137]

Chris Mole: Burnley borough council has commissioned Network Rail to carry out a study for the chord (and any other infrastructure changes required) which is due for completion by the end of the year. The study will confirm the expected capital cost, which is currently estimated at £5 million.

Motor Vehicles: Lighting

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) when his Department plans to publish its response to the consultation on proposed amendments to the vehicle lighting and construction regulations, which closed on 9 October 2008; [293683]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of making retro-reflective markings mandatory on all newly-registered heavy goods vehicles over 7.5 tonnes; and what methodology was used to make that estimate; [293684]

(3) what representations his Department has received from the road haulage industry on the introduction of mandatory retro-reflective markings on newly-registered heavy goods vehicles; [293687]

(4) what estimate he has made of the economic effects on manufacturers and fitters of retro-reflective markings of his Department's decision to postpone making such markings mandatory for all newly-registered heavy goods vehicles. [293688]

Paul Clark: A summary of the responses to the consultation will be published at the same time as the statutory instrument amending the lighting regulations so as to provide (among other things) for the new retro-reflective marking requirements. This is expected to be before the end of the year.

The methodology used to estimate the cost of mandatory conspicuity markings is contained in the impact assessment that accompanied the consultation. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2008/regulationsamendments/

The cost to fit tape to a new vehicle was estimated at between £186 and £388 per vehicle depending on whether simple line marking or full contour marking is used. A seven year life span was assumed, after which the markings would need to be replaced. The total number of new vehicles to be fitted with markings was estimated at 35,821 per year. Using these figures the average cost to fit markings on new vehicles was estimated at approximately £8.8 million per year. Taking into account the additional replacement costs after seven years the estimated annual cost over twelve years was between £16 and £17 million per year depending on the implementation strategy.

Both the Road Haulage Association and Freight Transport Association (FTA) responded to the original consultation. There has also been regular contact between Department for Transport officials and the FTA to discuss how the regulations would be implemented and to answer technical queries.

No detailed analysis of the effect on tape manufacturers and fitters of postponing conspicuity marking tape requirements has been carried out. They will, as now, be free to market their products in the period leading up to the mandatory requirement for marking tape in 2011.

Railways: Freight

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the Strategic Rail Authority's Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy; and if he will make a statement. [293471]

Chris Mole: Pending the publication of the National Networks National Policy Statement draft for consultation, the Strategic Rail Authority's Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Policy remains Department for Transport policy guidance.

A short policy statement on Strategic Rail Freight Interchanges is also contained in the recent Department publication "Strategic Rail Freight Network: The longer term vision".

Rivers: Pollution

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many incidences of *(a)* marine, *(b)* oil and *(c)* other pollution have been recorded in UK waters in each year since 1990 from shipping registered in (i) the UK, (ii) the EU and (iii) other countries; what steps were taken to clean up in each case; what costs were incurred and what fines were levied in each case; by whom these were paid; and if he will make a statement. [292780]

Paul Clark: Details of incidences of marine pollution being released from ships in the UK pollution control zone are given in annual reports produced by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea. Reports for the years 2001 through to 2007 are available on the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's website at:

http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-pollutionresponse/mcga-dops_cp_environmental-counter-pollution.htm

The information with regard to the port of registry of the ships is not contained in the Committee's annual report. This information is not available.

Comprehensive clean-up costs information is not held centrally.

PRIME MINISTER

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the implications for the NATO mission in Afghanistan of the government of Canada's decision to withdraw combat forces in 2011; and if he will make a statement. [293647]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 313.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has received a request to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry. [293571]

The Prime Minister: The Iraq inquiry will make announcements in due course about the hearings it will conduct and which witnesses will appear. In the event serving Ministers or Government officials are called, the Government reiterate their commitment to co-operate fully with the inquiry.

USA

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers have visited the United States on official business in the last 12 months. [293315]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Internet: Registration

Mr. Hurd: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the Commission has made representations to Nominet on the registration of the Red Rag website domain name using a House of Commons address. [288988]

Nick Harvey: No.

Members: European Travel Scheme

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many claims were made by hon. Members under the European travel scheme in each of the last five years. [293772]

Nick Harvey: The answer is as follows. Figures prior to 2005-06 are not available.

Financial year	*Number of claims*
2008-09	209
2007-08	207
2006-07	210
2005-06	181

SCOTLAND

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of procurement contracts his Department awarded to small businesses in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293240]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not record the information in the format requested. The Office endeavours to utilise existing contracts of other Government Departments whenever possible.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for civil servants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293096]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on first class rail travel. All rail travel is undertaken by the most efficient and cost-effective way, in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, a copy of which is available in the Libraries of the House.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* Blackberrys and *(c)* laptop computers were issued to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many of these were issued to (i) new staff and (ii) existing staff following the (A) loss or (B) theft of a previous device. [290521]

Dan Norris: Details on the specific devices are as follows:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10 to date*
Mobile Handsets Issued	809	364	219	185	59
Mobile Handsets Lost or Stolen	4	4	0	0	3
BlackBerry Handsets Issued	65	128	194	311	104
BlackBerry Handsets Lost or Stolen	1	8	5	12	5
Average number of Laptops on Estate	2,069	2,069	2,069	6,129	7,688
Laptops Lost or Stolen	18	22	13	20	12

Notes:

1. Figures for mobile handsets and BlackBerry devices issued are taken from purchase records and will not include devices issued that have been reused.
2. Figures for lost/stolen Blackberry handsets also include PDAs.
3. DEFRA reporting standards do not record losses and thefts separately nor is information available on whether losses were definitely replaced.
4. Figures for lost and stolen devices reported between 2005-06 and 2007-08 represent core-DEFRA, Animal Health, Natural England and Veterinary Laboratories Agency. From 2008-09 onwards the figure above represents core-DEFRA only.
5. Computers/laptops are paid for via a managed service which is charged for on a usage basis. DEFRA monitors the total volume of kit on the estate (which consists of a user base made up of the core-Department and several agencies/NDPBs) on a monthly basis to calculate charges, rather than how many devices are issued or replaced over time.
6. DEFRA has invested in encryption technology in the laptop and BlackBerry services for all new issues. Over 95 per cent. of the current devices are encrypted.
7. The total PC/laptop kit has reduced overall within DEFRA. The increase in laptop volumes above is due to 'single device' policy that has removed a significant number of desktop PCs in exchange for one corporate laptop per user in order to drive up environmental and mobile working benefits.

Farmers: Nitrates

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the farming industry on the identification of areas where the requirements placed on farmers to comply with nitrates legislation exceed the minimum requirements of the Nitrates Directive. [292717]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA introduced the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 in accordance with the Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC following extensive consultation during 2007-08.

In addition to the formal consultation, DEFRA officials met representatives of the farming industry on numerous occasions to discuss the Action Programme measures. These represent what DEFRA considers to be the best way of fulfilling our obligations under the nitrates directive, while maintaining a sustainable agricultural industry. The measures were developed to reflect good agricultural practice and are based on best available science. My ministerial colleagues and I also frequently discuss the implementation of the nitrates directive when we meet farmers.

Holiday Accommodation: Taxation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with HM Treasury Ministers on the effect of the abolition of furnished holiday lettings tax relief on the rural economy. [293430]

Dan Norris: Ministers and officials have discussions on a wide range of issues as part of the process of policy development.

Government will publish an impact assessment at pre-Budget report 2009 alongside draft legislation.

Nature Conservation: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether there are plans to change the responsibilities of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs regarding conservation issues in UK Overseas Territories; [293294]

(2) what progress has been made by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in developing a coherent strategy to manage biodiversity and promote conservation in the UK Overseas Territories; and if he will make a statement; [293295]

(3) how much funding will be made available for the Overseas Territories Challenge Fund as part of the United Kingdom Government's Darwin Initiative in the next 12 months; [293456]

(4) how much funding the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean have received under the Darwin Initiative scheme in each year since 2005; [293457]

(5) how much funding the UK Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic have received under the Darwin Initiative scheme in each year since 2005; [293458]

(6) what recent measures have been taken to achieve a co-ordinated approach to environmental protection across Government departments in relation to the *(a)* UK Overseas Territories and *(b)* Crown Dependencies. [293469]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are no plans to change the responsibilities regarding conservation issues in the UK's Overseas Territories.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) was commissioned by the Interdepartmental Ministerial Group on biodiversity (IDMGb) to draft a Government Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the UK Overseas Territories. This was done with the express intention of improving the effectiveness of co-ordination of the UK Government's support for biodiversity in the Overseas Territories. The strategy was announced at a reception on Collaboration on Environmental and Biodiversity Issues in the Overseas Territories, hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) at the end of June.

The strategy, which is shortly to be published, establishes, inter alia, a partnership of the three participating Government Departments, with JNCC providing the secretariat. The Strategy also establishes that my Department will co-ordinate the work of the partnership with the FCO and the Department for International Development (DFID).

In addition, an Interdepartmental Group on Biodiversity in the Overseas Territories has been established following agreement of the strategy. This group, comprising the same member Departments as the IDMGb, met for the first time on 29 September and established its key principles and terms of reference, one of which will be to co-ordinate to best effect UK Government support for biodiversity in the Overseas Territories.

Turning to the Darwin Initiative's new Overseas Territories Challenge Fund, I announced the establishment of this fund in June. It is intended to pay for up to 10 projects relating to biodiversity in the Overseas Territories, each costing up to £25,000. These will be comparable to existing Darwin scoping projects, aiming towards main-round projects, but for longer periods and involving some initial implementation work. The cost of Challenge Fund payments will come from a sum of up to £1.5 million, which I announced at the same event will be earmarked within the Darwin Initiative this year for Overseas Territories projects.

In terms of specific figures provided under the Darwin Initiative for projects in the Caribbean and South Atlantic Overseas Territories, these are as follows:

For the Caribbean Overseas Territories, since 2005, the figures are:

	£
2005-06	151,218
2006-07	156,378
2007-08	65,602
2008-09	31,227
2009-10	188,294

For the South Atlantic Overseas Territories, since 2005, the figures are:

	£
2005-06	71,294
2006-07	39,389
2007-08	52,077
2008-09	5,000
2009-10	27,856

Retail Trade: Rural Areas

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of rural parishes without a general store in each year since 1997. [293201]

Dan Norris: The Secretary of State has made no estimate of the number of rural parishes without a general store.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* newsagents, *(b)* fishmongers, *(c)* bakers and *(d)* butchers that have closed in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; [293227]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of food shops that have closed in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997. [293228]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not collect data on the numbers of different types of shops in urban and rural areas. However, the following table shows the number and rate of insolvencies in the retail industry nationally and in rural and urban areas between 2003 and 2009. 2003 is the earliest year for which DEFRA has data.

	Total number of retail insolvencies			*Rate per 1,000 businesses*		
	Rural	*Urban*	*England*	*Rural*	*Urban*	*England*
2003	212	1,325	1,537	1.0	1.4	1.3
2004	183	1,352	1,535	0.8	1.3	1.2
2005	267	1,613	1,880	0.9	1.3	1.2
2006	276	1,889	2,165	0.8	1.3	1.2
2007	319	1,875	2,194	0.9	1.2	1.2
2008	464	2,506	2,970	1.2	1.6	1.5
2009[1]	285	1,584	1,869	1.5	1.9	1.8

[1] 2009 data are for Q1 and Q2 (January to June) only.

Notes:

1. Figures refer to average annual rates of insolvencies per 1,000 businesses.

2. Rural-urban definition is applied to the postal address of where business is registered.

Source:

pH Group 2009.

The rate of insolvencies in rural areas has been consistently lower than the national average since 2003.

Rights of Way

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many panel inquiries have been adjourned for consideration of evidence submitted outside the time limits set in the Rights of Way (Hearing and Inquiries Procedure) (England) Rules 2007; and what the reasons for granting the adjournment were in each case. [294227]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested regarding public inquiries is unavailable as it is not recorded by the Planning Inspectorate or published in its year-end statistics.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Criminal Damages Compensation 1997

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications for compensation under the Criminal Damages (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) 1977 Order have been made in each of the last five years; and how many such applications were certified by the Chief Constable. [292759]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out the number of applications for Criminal Damage received and the number certified with a Chief Constable's Certificate within the last five years.

	Number of claims received	*Number certified by chief constable*
2004-05	935	83
2005-06	1,248	250
2006-07	896	53
2007-08	666	40
2008-09	756	19
2009-10 (to date)	457	5
Total	4,958	450

Libya

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures of cooperation and training with Libya involving *(a)* Police Service of Northern Ireland officers and staff and *(b)* any other departments or agencies for which he is responsible he has authorised in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [292159]

Paul Goggins: All requests made to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) for international assistance must be approved by the Northern Ireland Policing Board, and then the Secretary of State, under section 8 of the Police (NI) Act 2000. I have provided one authorisation within my area of responsibility in the last 12 months involving co-operation and training to Libya. This related to an approval under Section 8 for a serving member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to provide training to the Libyan Police. This approval followed a request from the National Police Improvement Agency for the assistance of the PSNI, and in response to the Northern Ireland Policing Board who supported this request. The assistance involved the delivery of three weeks tactical command training in January 2009 as part of a Foreign and Commonwealth Office sponsored programme of work designed to help Libya meet their human rights obligations by fostering policing techniques that meet international standards.

Northern Ireland Independent Monitoring Board

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to introduce a code of practice for the Independent Monitoring Board. [293652]

Paul Goggins: A code of conduct for the Independent Monitoring Board was agreed by the Council of Independent Monitoring Boards in Northern Ireland on 26 November 2008.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he plans to take to assist self-employed people to participate fully in the operation of the Independent Monitoring Board. [293662]

Paul Goggins: Vacancies on Independent Monitoring Boards are publicly advertised to encourage anyone who is interested in serving as a member of the IMB on a voluntary basis, regardless of employment status, to consider applying where they can give the required time commitment.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items of military equipment British forces in Afghanistan have *(a)* borrowed from and *(b)* lent to other coalition forces. [293622]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As part of a 42 country coalition in Afghanistan, the United Kingdom has agreements in place with the majority of members. These agreements include the capability to loan and borrow equipment. I am withholding the details of these activities as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and other participating states.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* armoured personnel carriers and *(b)* tanks have been deployed in Afghanistan in each month since January 2006. [293792]

Bill Rammell: There have been no tanks deployed in Afghanistan. I am withholding the information about the number of armoured personnel carriers deployed in Afghanistan as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel have been stationed in Afghanistan in the last 18 months. [293819]

Bill Rammell: The number of UK service personnel in Afghanistan fluctuates on a daily basis but as at 1 October 2009, approximately 5,030 Royal Naval personnel have been identified as having deployed to Afghanistan in the last 18 months.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force personnel have been stationed in Afghanistan in the last 18 months. [293837]

Bill Rammell: The number of UK service personnel in Afghanistan fluctuates on a daily basis but as at 1 October 2009, approximately 7,870 Royal Air Force personnel have been identified as having deployed to Afghanistan in the last 18 months.

Armed Forces: Christmas Deliveries

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has put in place to ensure Christmas deliveries to members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan. [294113]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence will be making all possible efforts to ensure deliveries of Christmas mail to members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan. Additional aircraft will be chartered as necessary to transport mail to theatre and there will be increased resources dedicated to mail movement within Afghanistan.

We also have plans to mitigate the impact of any industrial action by the Communications Workers Union; however, prolonged industrial action will inevitably impact on mail deliveries to armed forces.

We are also doing all we can to channel the public's generosity away from unsolicited parcels which have the ability to overload the system and cause delays for mail from families.

Armed Forces: Food

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* all food, *(b)* beef and *(c)* lamb supplied to UK forces based in (i) the UK, (ii) Germany, (iii) Iraq and (iv) Afghanistan was sourced from UK producers in the latest period for which figures are available. [294064]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested. However, a report on the proportion of domestically produced food used by Government Departments, and also supplied to hospitals and prisons under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain and HM Prison Service, was published in November 2008, covering the year from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. This report, and the first one covering the previous year, can be found at the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/awareness.htm

Overall, the proportion of domestically produced food procured by MOD has increased from 43 per cent. in 2006-07 to 59 per cent. in 2007-08.

The third report of this nature will be published in November 2009, and will demonstrate the work being undertaken to find opportunities to source British products, while working within the legal framework governing public procurement.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service families have been placed by Modern Housing Solutions in *(a)* Premier Travel Inns and *(b)* other hotels in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [294042]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For information related to 2005 to June 2007, the hon. Member is referred to the answer given by my predecessor on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1246W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Information on the number of service families placed in Premier Travel Inns or other hotels between July 2007 and today is not held centrally. I will therefore write to the hon. Member with the information requested once it has been collated.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of service families' accommodation was deemed uninhabitable in each year since 2004. [294043]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We do not use the term 'uninhabitable'. Sometimes properties are unable to be occupied for various reasons including demolition or major refurbishment. Our records do not separately identify such properties from other unoccupied Service Family Accommodation (SFA).

All currently occupied SFA is recorded as being of a habitable standard.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on substitute services accommodation in each year since 2004. [294044]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department is required to accommodate entitled service personnel within 10 miles of their duty station (or 20 miles with permission of their Service Commander). When no Service Family Accommodation (SFA) is available within this area, service families may be offered Substitute SFA (SSFA), which personnel are entitled to retain for the duration of their tour, to avoid disruption to family life.

Substitute Single Service Accommodation (SSSA) is granted to entitled single personnel when Single Living Accommodation (SLA) is not available at or close to their duty station.

The amount spent on SSFA and SSSA in each year since 2004 is as follows:

£ million

	SSSA	*SSFA*	*Total*
2004	32.9	11.0	43.9
2005	36.8	13.0	49.8
2006	40.5	15.0	55.5
2007	44.5	14.6	59.1
2008	50.9	17.4	68.3
2009 (to date)	44.0	17.0	61.0

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the British Forces Postal System; and if he will make a statement. [293671]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information was published in Defence Internal Brief, Serial 2009DIB/37 dated 6 October 2009, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Rehabilitation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on rehabilitation for wounded soldiers in each of the last 12 months. [293795]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Medical Services manage a widespread armed forces rehabilitation network that has some 180 Primary Care Rehabilitation Facilities and 15 Regional Rehabilitation Units (RRUs) as well as the flagship Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court in Surrey. Patients from all the armed services requiring rehabilitation are treated at the facility and location that is most appropriate.

The annual running costs of Headley Court are approximately £13.5 million. Responsibility for the individual management of the primary care and RRU facilities is shared between the single service commands, with oversight from the Joint Medical Command. However, each service funds its respective RRUs differently. Owing to the number of different internal budgets to which costs would be attributable, any detailed analysis of local rehabilitation expenditure would therefore incur disproportionate costs.

Where an individual requires specialist rehabilitation services or equipment that can best be provided by a non-MOD organisation (such as some aspects of neurological rehabilitation and specialised prosthetics) this will be arranged at additional cost. In the financial year 2008-09, about £1.6 million was spent on such services by the Joint Medical Command.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has refused to provide assistance to any *(a)* individuals and *(b)* units of the Colombian security forces on human rights grounds in the last five years; [293604]

(2) which official in his Department is responsible for monitoring the human rights performance of members of the Colombian security forces who have received training or other assistance from the United Kingdom. [293613]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 621W, to the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington).

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Colombian security forces personnel have received United Kingdom counter-narcotics assistance in each of the last five years. [293614]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 737W, to the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon).

Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which UK units are deployed as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus; which units will replace them on the next rotation; and if he will make a statement. [293731]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The 27 Regiment Royal Logistics Corps are currently deployed as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. They will be replaced, in April 2010, by a Territorial Army unit from 2 Division and 40 Signal Regiment. Based on current plans, the units will rotate every six months between Regular units and Territorial Army units.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength is of the UK contingent in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force (UNFICYP) in Cyprus; what the cost was of the UK UNFICYP contingent in the latest year for which figures are available; and how much of that cost is to be reimbursed from each source of reimbursement. [293737]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 16 October 2009 there were 288 personnel deployed on Operation TOSCA, the UK contribution to UNFICYP. The cost for this deployment in the financial year 2008-09 was £16 million; charged to the tri-departmental (FCO, MOD and DfiD) peacekeeping budget, of which we expect around £2.5 million will be reimbursed by the United Nations.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the refurbishment of the Ledra Palace to provide better accommodation to the UK United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus contingent; who paid for that work; what the cost of that work has been; and if he will make a statement. [293739]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The renovation and refurbishment of the Ledra Palace Hotel continues as part of an agreed three year programme between 2007 and 2010 between the Republic of Cyprus and the UN. All work on the external fabric of the building is complete providing a watertight structure. All roofs have now been repaired and/or replaced, the fire detection and alarm systems have been installed, asbestos removal in the boiler rooms and cellars is complete, the floor covering in the gymnasium has been replaced and the ration store refurbished. The recommissioning of rooms in the west wing is complete and a total of 35 rooms have been handed over to the UN Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP). In addition to this the renovation of the Ledra Palace Hotel Medical Centre is nearing completion.

There is no direct cost to the UK for this work. The work is being carried out by the Republic of Cyprus in an arrangement with the United Nations and we do not have visibility of the associated costs.

Cyprus: Armed Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British servicemen are stationed at the British Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [293453]

Bill Rammell: As at 1 September 2009 there were 2,550 UK service personnel stationed in the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus.

This figure has been rounded to the nearest 50 in order to provide a meaningful level of detail as there are constant service personnel movements in and out of the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus.

Cyprus: Military Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fixed wing aircraft of each type are stationed at the British Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia. [293452]

Bill Rammell: There are no fixed wing aircraft stationed in the British Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus. RAF Akrotiri does however routinely support movements of fixed wing assets through Akrotiri as part of its role as a forward mounting base for current operations.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are employed on a *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time basis at each of his Department's bases in Scotland [294105]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Validated figures below the local authority level have not been compiled and can not be supplied without incurring disproportionate cost.

The table shows the number of civilian personnel in Scotland as at 1 July 2009, broken down by local authority, and full and part-time status.

			Headcount
	Total	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
Scotland	5,980	5,500	480
Aberdeen City	80	80	[1]—
Aberdeenshire	30	30	[1]—
Angus	60	50	[1]—
Argyll and Bute	1,700	1,620	90
Dumfries and Galloway	50	50	[1]—
Dundee City	30	30	—
Edinburgh, City of	450	410	40
Eilean Siar	[1]—	[1]—	—
Falkirk	[1]—	[1]—	—
Fife	750	710	40
Glasgow City	1,090	950	130
Highland	90	80	[1]—
Inverclyde	30	30	[1]—
Midlothian	40	30	[1]—
Moray	670	600	70
North Ayrshire	340	320	10
Perth and Kinross	20	20	[1]—
Renfrewshire	10	10	[1]—
Scottish Borders	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Shetland Islands	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
South Ayrshire	40	40	[1]—
South Lanarkshire	[1]—	[1]—	—
Stirling	340	280	50
West Dunbartonshire	120	120	[1]—

			Headcount
	Total	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
West Lothian	[1]—	[1]—	—

[1] Denotes frequency of five or less.

Notes:

1. Table includes all civilian personnel employed in MOD Core TLBs and trading funds. Figures exclude RFAs and LECs for which location data are not held centrally.

2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Because of rounding, totals may not always equal to the sum of the parts.

Source:

DASA (Quad-Service)

The following table shows the number of military personnel (UK regular forces) in Scotland as at 1 July 2009, broken down by local/unitary authority. UK regular forces includes all trained and untrained personnel. Gurkhas, full-time reserve personnel, and mobilised reservists are excluded.

UK regular forces

	Number
Scotland	11,950
Aberdeen City	20
Aberdeenshire	20
Angus	900
Argyll and Bute	2,980
Clackmannanshire	—
Dumfries and Galloway	—
Dundee City	40
East Ayrshire	—
East Dunbartonshire	—
East Lothian	—
East Renfrewshire	—
Edinburgh, City of	1,550
Eilean Siar	10
Falkirk	—
Fife	1,460
Glasgow City	560
Highland	620
Inverclyde	—
Midlothian	480
Moray	3,100
North Ayrshire	—
North Lanarkshire	—
Orkney Islands	—
Perth and Kinross	10
Renfrewshire	—
Scottish Borders	—
Shetland Islands	—
South Ayrshire	90
South Lanarkshire	—
Stirling	60
West Dunbartonshire	—
West Lothian	—

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293231]

Bill Rammell: The majority, approximately 95 per cent., of MOD's contracts with supplier companies are managed through the MOD's central contract processes. When a new contract is placed under this system, a commercial officer is required to identify whether the company is a small and medium enterprise (SME). Within the contracts system, an SME is defined as a company with less than 250 employees. The MOD central contracts database shows the percentages of new contracts let where the company has been identified as an SME. This information is provided as follows:

	Percentage of procurement contracts awarded to SME
2006-07	46
2007-08	46
2008-09	48
2009-10[1]	46

[1] Six months.

Contracts for which the SME information is incomplete have been excluded, and this currently comprises approximately 4 per cent. of contracts let.

The Ministry of Defence is working with the Office of Government Commerce and other Departments to implement the recommendations of the Glover report in regard to increasing SME participation in public procurement.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293330]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. With the introduction of the Defence Travel (DT) in 2008, however, visibility of rail bookings can now be captured. Rail booking is processed through an online booking tool or offline through a Travel Management Company, Hogg Robinson Group (HRG). The spend for FY 2008-09 on 1st class travel through DT was £6.497 million. This figure does not include rail warrants (which were not withdrawn until 30 April 2009) or short notice travellers paying at ticket offices and reclaiming the cost.

The entitlement to first class travel is laid down in Joint Service Publication 800, Defence Movements and Transportation Regulations. The class of rail travel in UK Mainland is based on rank or, for civil servants, grade. Officers and civil servants who are Lt Cdr, Major, Sqn Ldr, pay band C2 and above are entitled to first class travel at public expense. This includes acting rank. Standard class passengers travelling with entitled officers for essential duty reasons may also travel first class.

Elizabeth Cross

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Elizabeth Crosses have been awarded to families of service personnel; [293826]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of recommendations for the award of the Elizabeth Cross to be made in the next nine months. [293828]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since August this year, a total of 292 Queen Elizabeth Crosses and Memorial Scrolls have been issued to the eligible Next Of Kin (NOK) of deceased service personnel who have died on operations, or as a result of an act of terrorism since 1 January 1948. A further 406 awards have been prepared for presentation to eligible NOK at organised events.

It is estimated that there are currently 8,000 eligible NOK, although it is not possible for the Ministry of Defence to determine how many retrospective or future recommendations for the award of the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll will be made within the next nine months.

Falkland Islands: Military Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fixed wing aircraft of each type are stationed in the Falkland Islands. [293455]

Bill Rammell: The following fixed wing aircraft types and numbers are currently based at Mount Pleasant Airfield in the Falklands:

	Number
Typhoon	4
Hercules C-130	1
VC10	1

Indian Ocean: Military Aircraft

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fixed-wing Royal Air Force aircraft are deployed in the Indian Ocean. [293831]

Bill Rammell: There are no UK fixed wing aircraft stationed in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

Israel: Military Aid

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent meetings have taken place between senior members of the UK armed forces and representatives of the Israeli Defence Force; what the purpose of each meeting was; and who attended each meeting. [293630]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 October 2009]*: There has been one such meeting: the Chief of the Defence Staff visited Israel in Sep 09. He met with his Israeli counterpart Gen Ashkenazi and other senior members of the Israeli military. He also went to the Occupied Palestinian Territories and met with senior Palestinians including the Minister of the Interior and the President's Chief of Staff. The purpose of his visit was in support of the middle east peace process.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to recruit, train and retain pilots for *(a)* Merlin and *(b)* Chinook helicopters. [292326]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 430W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 589-90W, on military aircraft, what plans his Department has to meet the required pilot strength in the Merlin and Chinook forces. [292337]

Bill Rammell: Required and actual strengths will both vary with time due to many factors including operational requirements, the introduction of newly trained crew on completion of training courses at set times during the year, the number of trained personnel assigned to non-flying duties (as part of the necessary broader career development), injuries, and service leavers. The helicopter fleet is managed to ensure that our operational and other commitments are met.

The RAF and Royal Navy are recruiting and training sufficient personnel to ensure that the Defence Helicopter Flying School (DHFS) rotary wing training pipeline is fully stocked with trainee pilots for both Merlin and Chinook forces.

Military Aircraft: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fixed-wing Royal Air Force aircraft are stationed in Northern Ireland. [293830]

Bill Rammell: Two Grob Vigilant Tl aircraft operated by 664 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at Newtownards airfield are the only Royal Air Force fixed-wing aircraft stationed in Northern Ireland.

Military Decorations: Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on medals for service personnel in each of the last 10 years. [293793]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Figures are only available for the last four years since the separate services medal offices joined to become the Ministry of Defence Medal Office.

The actual cost of purchasing medals is provided in the table.

	Cost of medals (£ million)
2005-06	2.35
2006-07	2.49
2007-08	1.73
2008-09	1.58

Military Decorations: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans' badges have been issued to residents of *(a)* Fife and *(b)* North East Fife constituency; and how many of those were awarded to widows or widowers of former service personnel. [293979]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format that identifies how many veterans' badges have been issued to residents of Fife and North East Fife constituency and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We have, however, identified that a total of 3,415 veterans' badges have been issued to residents who have included Fife as part of their address.

Navy: Festivals and Special Occasions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of hosting Navy Days 2009; how many people visited each event; and which Ministers from his Department were present at each event. [293825]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Navy Days 2009 event was held at HM Naval Base Devonport over two days on 5 and 6 September 2009. As the final accounts have yet to be ratified, the exact cost for hosting the event is not yet available. The indicative expenditure is, however, approximately £300,000 with a marginal surplus generated as income through, for example, ticket sales, brochure sales, advertising and sponsorship. As such, the event ran at zero net cost to the Department.

Based on advance ticket sales and those purchased at the gate, in excess of 20,000 people attended the event over the two days. Both my hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I were invited. Unfortunately, however, neither of us were able to attend.

Nepal: Helicopters

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, whether the Government has made any representations to the government of Nepal as a result of the investigation. [293750]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* The UK Ministry of Defence has written to the Nepalese Defence Minister informing Nepal of the conclusion of the investigation.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, what concerns prompted the establishment of the inquiry into the gifting of two helicopters to the Royal Nepal Army in 2002. [293751]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* Concerns over the airworthiness of the aircraft were raised by the Royal Nepalese Army during servicing of one of the aircraft. These concerns prompted the investigation into the procurement of the two aircraft and the use of UK Government funds.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2000W, on helicopters: Nepal, what the cost to the public purse was of each helicopter gifted to the Royal Nepal Army; and what the purchase price of a new model M1-17 helicopter was at the time the gift was made. [293752]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* The total cost for the two gifted helicopters was £2.5 million, £1.25 million per aircraft.

Information on the purchase price of a new helicopter at the time the gift was made is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who the advisers are to his Department's interim storage of laid-up submarines (ISOLUS) programme; for what reason *(a)* Dr. Jane Hunt and *(b)* Dr. Bill Thompson are no longer advisers to the programme; how many participants in the programme have left it since the departure of Dr. Hunt and Dr. Thompson; and how much is being spent on the ISOLUS programme in 2009-10. [293623]

Bill Rammell: The Submarine Dismantling Project (SDP—formerly the ISOLUS project) Advisory Group provides independent scrutiny and advice to the MOD on SDP activities and plans. There are 25 non-MOD members, who represent a range of organisations, covering inter alia industry, academia, regulatory bodies and non-governmental organisations.

A full list of the members of the SDP Advisory Group can be found on the SDP website:

http://www.submarinedismantling.co.uk/ConsultationIAG.html

Drs. Hunt and Thompson were employed under a contract to Lancaster university to provide communications support to the project. On the expiry of that contract in March 2009, a new contractor was employed following an open competition. Lancaster university did not bid for that contract. Following a subsequent review of the group's membership, it was assessed by the MOD that the two individuals' skills were duplicated elsewhere within the group. It was therefore decided that their continued membership was not necessary and, as members' attendance is funded by the MOD, did not represent good value for taxpayers' money.

Since the departure of Drs. Hunt and Thompson in August 2009, two other members of the group have tendered their resignations.

The current forecast spend on SDP in financial year 2009-10 is £3.9 million.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293473]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None of the Ministry of Defence's Executive, Advisory or Independent Monitoring Board non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to any of the political party conferences in 2009.

Royal Regiment of Scotland: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* trained, *(b)* actual strength and *(c)* numbers fit for duty requirement is for each (i) regular and (ii) territorial infantry battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. [293428]

Bill Rammell: Infantry manning deficits have been reduced markedly and the situation continues to improve fast due to a number of factors including the introduction of exceptional action measures, financial incentives, improved marketing and the current economic situation. However, the strength of individual battalions will tend to fluctuate naturally over time, according to their planned duties.

"Trained Requirement" has been interpreted as the maximum number of trained posts in a battalion's peace time configuration.

"Actual strength" has been interpreted as the number of personnel assigned to a battalion for its planned duties. It will also include augmentees who are temporarily assigned if needed to support the role of the battalion, for operational military tasks and events that cannot be achieved within required strengths. Similarly, the figures exclude those assigned out of the battalion to augment other units.

"Fit for duty" has been interpreted as fit for primary role, including personnel listed as having limited deploy ability, plus personnel who are unfit for deployment but who can perform a role in an alternative capacity. The difference between the actual strength and number fit for duty represents those who are medically non-effective and therefore unfit for any form of duty.

As at 1 October 2009, the figures for Royal Regiment of Scotland regular battalions are provided in the following table.

Battalion	*Trained requirement*	*Actual strength*	*Scots*
1 Scots	630	556	554
2 Scots	627	518	515
3 Scots	630	625	614
4 Scots	686	584	583
5 Scots	650	542	540

As at 1 October 2009, the figures for Royal Regiment of Scotland Territorial Army battalions are provided in the following table.

Battalion	*Trained requirement*	*Actual strength*	*SCOTS*
6 SCOTS	430	270	n/a
7 SCOTS	500	360	n/a

n/a = not available.

Data concerning fit for duty personnel are not collected for the Territorial Army.

Service Complaints Commissioner

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made to the location of offices of the Service Complaints Commissioner for the Armed Forces in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [294188]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Service Complaints Commissioner has been in her independent external office (Victoria Street, London, SWI) since July 2008. We have secured an additional office within that building to accommodate recent increases in support staff and equipment.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what British military assistance has been provided for operations in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [293164]

Bill Rammell: The UK armed forces have provided a colonel to the UN political office in Somalia, which is attempting to co-ordinate international policy towards Somalia, and in so doing works closely with Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which directly supports the stand up of the Transitional Federal Government in Mogadishu.

We are working comprehensively with other Whitehall Departments on a broad Somalia strategy. In line with this, we are providing training and support to Uganda and Burundi who are providing troops for AMISOM, and are working to build the capability of the Somaliland Coastguard. We are also engaged with international partners, including through the international Contact Group on piracy off the coast of Somalia, to deliver regional capability building projects.

Furthermore, we are currently at the forefront of three international counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia: the EU Operation Atalanta; the NATO Operation Ocean Shield; and the coalition Combined Task Force 151.

Territorial Army: Medals

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will reduce the requirement for members of the Territorial Army to have qualified for bounty from nine out of 10 years to eight out of 10 years for applications for the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal. [293128]

Bill Rammell: There are currently no plans to amend the eligibility criteria for the Volunteer Reserve Service Medal. To receive this award, reserve forces men and women, regardless of rank, must be certified efficient, as required by their obligatory training commitment defined in individual service regulations.

Trident

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the length of time it would take to decommission Trident and its facilities; and if he will make a statement. [289768]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: When nuclear submarines leave the naval service, they will be subject to a process known as Defuel, De-equip and Lay-up Preparation, which will involve spent nuclear materials being removed for storage at Sellafield, and any remaining irradiated material being secured within the reactor compartment. In line with current practice for other submarines now leaving service, the submarines themselves will then be stored afloat at either Devonport or Rosyth, pending final disposal.

The submarines will then be dismantled, a process that will take approximately 12 months. The current budget for this process (known as the Submarine Dismantling Project) is some £1.5 billion. This covers the dismantling of 27 nuclear submarines from HMS Dreadnought through to HMS Vengeance, the 4th boat in the current nuclear deterrent fleet. At present costs of decommissioning cannot be broken down by class.

Faslane and other facilities associated with the submarine flotilla will remain in service to support the future deterrent and the Astute class submarine. There are no plans for decommissioning these facilities.

Type 42 Destroyers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what official visits he has made to Type 42 destroyers in the last 12 months. [293815]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None.

JUSTICE

Counter-Terrorism

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of implementation of the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on British counter-terrorism policy. [293124]

Mr. Wills: The Government support the International Convention and believe that it will have an important role in preventing enforced disappearance and secret detention in the future. The UK played an active part in the negotiations prior to the drafting of the convention and supported its adoption in 2008 at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

The UK is prepared to give its signature to treaties only when it has a clear intention to ratify within a reasonable timescale. The Government are conscious of the potentially significant impact of the convention in the domestic context, and we are therefore continuing our detailed assessment of the provisions of the convention and their effect across all areas of UK law and policy.

In particular, we are analysing the extent to which common law provisions may need to be replicated in statute law; whether any new criminal offences would need to be introduced; and whether the UK would enter any reservations or declarations on ratification.

Ratification will require primary legislation to facilitate changes to domestic law and the introduction of such primary legislation will depend on securing parliamentary time. The complexity of the issues still under consideration means that we are not setting a deadline for completion of our analysis, but work is being progressed as rapidly as possible.

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department in each of the last five years; what the primary reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290250]

Mr. Straw: The number of staff dismissed and who have had their contracts terminated over the last five years together with the reason for dismissal is shown in the following table. The figures given over this period represent the Ministry of Justice (from May 2007) and its predecessor organisations.

Reason for dismissal	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Dismissal for inefficiency during probation	33	48	49	10	11
Dismissal on disciplinary grounds	143	173	224	318	186
Dismissal for inefficiency	212	235	263	227	322
End of conditional appointment (failed pre-employment checks)	0	0	0	2	3
End of fixed term contract	199	886	673	701	641
Voluntary early severance on compulsory terms	2	6	27	81	36
Voluntary early severance on flexible terms	0	0	5	39	0
Grand total	589	1,348	1,241	1,378	1,199

The number of dismissals as a proportion of the Ministry's work force (based on headcount) is 1.73 per cent. for 2007-08 and 1.48 per cent. for 2008-09.

The costs associated with these dismissals and contract terminations are not recorded centrally. In the last five years, there have been no compulsory redundancies. The severance costs related to voluntary early departures (as a result of re-organisations and restructurings) are not distinguishable from the costs of other types of dismissal, for example, compromise agreements. A manual check of each individual file would need to be undertaken to establish these figures, and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the primary purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290254]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice reward schemes exist to provide employees with remuneration relevant to their work. These schemes cover:

Basic pay (and allowances where appropriate);

Non-consolidated performance pay; and

Flexible benefits.

Arrangements for basic and non-consolidated performance pay for senior civil servants (SCS) are based on recommendations made by the Independent Senior Salaries Review Body. Reward arrangements for grades below the SCS are delegated to Departments. In the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) there are separate reward schemes in place for staff in grades below the SCS working in National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the rest of the Ministry.

Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS)

The following table provides details of the cost of administering basic pay, allowances and non-consolidated performance pay schemes and the number of staff participating in them. The costs cover the period where there has been machinery of Government changes. The costs are associated with the Department of Constitutional Affairs from 1 April 2004 to 30 April 2007 and the Ministry of Justice since May 2007.

	Staff participating	*Cost of operating the reward system (£)*
2008-09	27,808	2,668,900
2007-08	27,581	2,553,465
2006-07	28,163	3,429,364
2005-06	24,309	3,116,358
2004-05	12,687	n/a

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. The data for 2004-05 reflects staff employed (and subject to the pay award) by the former DCA prior to the Magistrates Courts Service (MCS) becoming part of the DCA on 1 April 2005.

2. The increase in 2005 reflects the increase subsequent to the merger with the Magistrates Courts Service and the machinery of government changes which led to the establishment of the Tribunals Service on 1 April 2006.

3. Totals include all SCS staff subject to pay determination by the MOJ including sister Departments. Payroll services for basic and non-consolidated performance pay and allowances is provided by an outsourced payroll provider.

Flexible benefits schemes enable staff to exercise a degree of choice in respect of the way they are rewarded within the limits of their overall reward package. The following table contains information about participation in these arrangements in the MOJ since the schemes introduction in 2007.

Scheme	*Number of Staff who have participated in this since its introduction in 2007*
Salary Sacrifice Scheme for Childcare Vouchers	504
Salary Sacrifice Scheme for bicycles and cycles safety equipment	78
Voluntary Benefits	9,060
Buying and Selling Annual Leave	1,173

The non-payroll costs for the administration associated with the schemes above since their introduction in 2007 is £210,000.

The National Offender Management Agency (NOMS)

Details of the number of staff participating in the NOMS reward arrangements are contained in the following table.

	Staff participating[1]
2008-09	52,956
2007-08	51,239
2006-07	49,571
2005-06	48,874
2004-05	48,848

[1] Data relates to staff employed in HM Prison Service. Staff employed by the national probation service are paid by their local probation board.

The NOMS Agency also offers the following flexible benefits:

Work Life Balance working patterns;

Salary Sacrifice scheme for Childcare; and

Season ticket and bicycle loan schemes

The cost of administration of the pay and reward arrangements for NOMS over the last five years are not centrally recorded. The information can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293235]

Mr. Wills: At present the size (number of people) and status of businesses is not information that is captured as standard when contracts are awarded to suppliers. To obtain the relevant information would incur disproportionate cost.

Injunctions

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation to protect *(a)* whistleblowers and *(b)* press freedom following the injunctions obtained in the High Court by (i) Barclays and Freshfields solicitors on 19 March 2009 on the publication of internal Barclays reports documenting alleged tax avoidance schemes and (ii) Trafigura and Carter Ruck solicitors on 11 September 2009 on the publication of the Minton report on the alleged dumping of toxic waste in the Ivory Coast, commissioned by Trafigura; [293006]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications of the Court of Appeal judgment in May 2009 in the case of Michael Napier and Irwin Mitchell *v.* Pressdram Limited in respect of press freedom to report proceedings in court. [292409]

Mr. Straw: The issues raised by this and other similar cases are important and deserve to be properly explored. I intend to look into the issues raised and am ready to discuss them with my hon. Friend and any other hon. Member concerned. A meeting with representatives of the national press, senior officials of my Ministry has already been arranged.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms HM Courts Service uses to draw up rosters of duty judges for the purpose of considering time of the essence applications for the issuing of injunctions by the High Court. [293013]

Mr. Straw: All High Court judges are required to act from time to time as duty judges for the purpose of dealing with urgent court business, such as applications to issue injunctions. Separate rosters are maintained for the Chancery, Family and Queens Bench Divisions but in each case these provide for a High Court judge being available to deal with such matters for 24 hours a day and on every day of the year.

Lancaster Farms Young Offender Institution

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to *(a)* market test and *(b)* contract out HM Young Offender Institution Lancaster Farms in the next 12 months. [293160]

Maria Eagle: There are currently no plans either to market test, or to contract out HM Young Offenders Institution Lancaster Farms.

Magistrates Courts: Working Hours

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which magistrate courts are planned to *(a)* close and *(b)* reduce their sitting hours in the next two years. [293760]

Bridget Prentice: On 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 24-25WS, my right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice made a written ministerial statement to the House announcing the launch of 20 consultation exercises for magistrates courts closures. These courts are underutilised and in many cases their facilities for court users, including victims and witnesses, are inadequate. The Lord Chancellor will make a decision whether to close a court after considering the responses to consultations.

HMCS regularly reviews the use and condition of its estate. Where there is an underutilised court and alternative facilities within a reasonable travelling distance we will consider holding consultations to seek views; on whether to close a court.

HMCS must keep the level of magistrates courts sitting commensurate to the amount of work—local management decisions, involving local judiciary, including magistrates, and staff will be taken regularly to ensure that that is the case.

Prison Accommodation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison cells have been built in England and Wales in each year since 1997; and at what cost in each such year. [293140]

Mr. Straw: We do not record capacity provision by the number of cells built (which can be single or double cells) but rather by prison places.

The following table shows the number of new prison places built since 1997 and the average capital building cost per place, including ancillary costs.

	Number of places[1]	*Average capital building cost per place*[2]
1997-98	4,716	60,000
1998-99	1,222	67,000
1999-2000	1,646	65,000
2000-01	640	61,000
2001-02	920	79,000
2002-03	1,780	57,000
2003-04	1,376	77,000
2004-05	2,570	100,000
2005-06	940	119,000
2006-07	180	150,000
2007-08	2,111	152,000
2008-09	1,882	142,000

[1] The number of new places does not take into account any places provided through crowding, or any places that have been taken out of use.

[2] The costs shown only cover the capital building costs of each new place. No adjustment has been made for inflation.

Probation: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Probation Service staff there were in each probation area in the north-west in each of the last five years; and what the ratio of offenders to Probation Service staff was in each case. [291310]

Mr. Straw: Over the five-year period, funding for Probation across England and Wales has increased overall by 32.2 per cent., with the number of qualified probation officers increasing by 4.4 per cent. In the north-west region, funding has increased by 16.2 per cent., with the number of qualified probation officers increasing by 4.3 per cent. The total number of staff in each probation area in the north-west region is shown in the following table, together with the ratio to offenders.

Ratio of offenders to probation staff in the north-west

Staff in post figures shown as full time equivalents

		2004[2]	*2005*[2]	*2006*[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[2]
Cheshire	Staff in post[3]	346	376	379	366	368
	Ratio—offenders:staff[4]	8.0:1	8.7:1	9.9:1	10.2:1	10.5:1
Cumbria	Staff in post[3]	173	190	198	196	176
	Ratio—offenders:staff[4]	11.1:1	9.9:1	9.5:1	10.9:1	12.2:1
Greater Manchester	Staff in post[3]	1,306	1,341	1,411	1,270	1,284
	Ratio—offenders:staff[4]	11.0:1	11.2:1	11.5:1	13.1:1	12.6:1
Lancashire	Staff in post[3]	602	578	565	563	556
	Ratio—offenders:staff[4]	10.1:1	11.1:1	12.6:1	13.6:1	13.7.1
Merseyside	Staff in post[3]	777	784	754	715	719
	Ratio—offenders:staff[4]	11.9:1	13.1:1	13.8:1	13.3:1	12.9:1

[1] Figures as at 31 December.

[2] Figures as at September 2008; the latest date for which there are corresponding Staffing and Offender figures.

[3] Includes all staff employed within the area/region.

[4] Calculated against all staff employed within the area/region.

Secure Accommodation: Young Offenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which secure facilities young people who had previously been detained at Orchard Lodge. Secure Children's Home were moved when that facility was closed in July 2009. [294187]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) announced its intention to stop contracting for places at Orchard Lodge Secure Children's Home on 26 March 2009. Between March and July, the YJB did not place any young people at the home whose period of detention would have extended beyond July 2009 and almost all young people at the home were either released or moved to other establishments as part of their sentence plan. The only young person remaining at Orchard Lodge at the time of its closure was transferred to the enhanced Carlford Unit at Warren Hill Young Offenders Institution on 31 July.

Sentencing

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of those people who received indeterminate public protection sentences and who have passed their tariff date have been released; [293963]

(2) how many indeterminate public protection sentences have been handed down in each year since they were introduced. [294046]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence for public protection can only be considered for release once they have completed the minimum period imposed by the court for punishment and deterrence (the tariff). There is nothing automatic about release once the tariff has expired; an offender serving a sentence of imprisonment for public protection will be released only when the independent Parole Board determines that the risk of harm which he presents may be safely managed in the community.

The number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection who had past tariff and were released on licence in each year since 2005 is as follows:

Year of release	*Number released*
2006	0
2007	12
2008	33
2009	31

These figures have been drawn from the Public Protection Unit database and the IPP database and, as with any large scale recording systems, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The number of offenders received into prison establishments on indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection since 2005 is as follows:

Year of sentence	*Number sentenced*
2005	420
2006	1,570
2007	1,747
2008	1,315

This table is an extract from tables 6.17 in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anguilla: Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress made by Anguilla towards energy independence; and if he will make a statement. [293462]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for energy issues has been devolved to the Overseas Territory governments.

The Government of Anguilla (GOA) advised us that their progress towards energy independence has so far included the following:

Formal Establishment of the Anguilla National Energy Committee under the Department of Environment;

A draft National Energy Policy has been verbally endorsed by the GO A. This is expected to be formalised by 1 December 2009;

A renewable Energy Co-ordinator, supported by OTEP funding (Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development fund), has been retained and is currently working to promote the goals of the Draft National Energy Policy;

Funds have been raised through the GOA (EC$ 500,000) and OTEP (£100,000) for the establishment of the Anguilla Renewable Energy Office;

A National Energy Committee covers high-level international consultancy, data collection and data analysis;

A business plan has been developed for a special entity currently called "RECorp" which will establish and operate a first phase 2-3 megawatt wind farm under a power-purchase agreement with ANGLEC, Anguilla's sole electrical utility.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of Anguilla's energy production has been drawn from renewable sources in each year since 2004. [293463]

Chris Bryant: Less than 1 per cent. of Anguilla's energy production has been drawn from renewable sources in each year since 2004. This is primarily through solar panels and solar water heaters.

British Antarctic Territory: Climate Change

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the United Kingdom has given to assessment exercises of the effect of climate change on future levels of emperor penguin populations in the British Antarctic Territory. [293465]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) have been using remote sensing satellite images to locate emperor penguin colonies in Antarctica. The colonies were identified by the reddish brown patches of guano left by the penguins on the ice, which are visible in satellite images.

The survey identified a total of 38 colonies in Antarctica, 10 of which were new. As the low resolution of the satellite imagery did not allow any population assessment, BAS will conduct new research, part funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, using high resolution satellite imagery to look at the distribution of emperor penguin breeding colonies in the British Antarctic Territory (BAT).

BAS are also collaborating with French, Australian and US colleagues to look at emperor penguin colonies elsewhere on the continent.

British Antarctic Territory: Polar Regions Unit

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what projects are being undertaken by the British Antarctic Survey and the FCO Polar Regions Unit. [293466]

Chris Bryant: The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) undertakes a very wide variety of scientific projects in Antarctica, South Georgia and the Arctic. These projects are managed through the strategic science framework of the BAS called Polar Science for Planet Earth (PSPE). PSPE concentrates on key scientific questions of global or fundamental importance that can be best answered by research requiring access to the polar regions. It consists of six major programmes each consisting of several projects. The PSPE Programmes are: Climate, Chemistry and Past Climate, Ecosystems, Environmental Change and Evolution, Ice Sheets and Polar Oceans. Further details of PSPE, and the component research programmes and projects, can be found on the BAS website:

www.antarctica.ac.uk/bas_research

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Polar Regions Unit also support a range of projects each year to underpin delivery of the strategic objectives of the British Antarctic Territory; these include projects which contribute to the environmental protection, education and outreach, heritage and governance of the Territory, and many of these are undertaken in partnership with BAS. The unit is also working with BAS and the Royal Geographical Society to develop a new educational website on the Arctic:

www.discoverthearctic.org.uk.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conservation schemes operate in the British Indian Ocean Territory to protect low-lying vulnerable atolls from the effects of climate change. [293467]

Chris Bryant: All coral atolls in the Indian Ocean are suffering attrition due to coral mortality and sea level rise. The northern Chagos atolls have been monitored for the key coral components, especially those primarily responsible for providing a breakwater effect in shallow water.

Coral atolls in the Chagos Islands fare much better than most because they do not face the additional stresses caused by human inhabitation (sewage discharges, shoreline development, dredging, etc). Observations have been made on erosion since 1996 in some areas.

The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development fund totalling £1 million annually, funds projects in the Overseas Territories dealing with environment, biodiversity, energy, recycling, climate change adaption and mitigation, and sustainable development.

The programme is currently contributing funding to a two-year project involving specialist scientists from elsewhere in the Indian Ocean, which will collect data on the condition of all atolls in the British Indian Ocean Territory, looking in particular at the effects of climate change on the reefs, with a view to informing and improving environmental management.

British Overseas Territories Conservation: Meetings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to meet representatives of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum in the next six months; and whether he has met them in the last six months. [293468]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not met representatives of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum in the last six months and has no plans to do so in the next six months. However, I co-hosted a reception on 30 June 2009 with my ministerial colleagues from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for International Development for the British non-governmental organisation community involved in environmental protection work in the Overseas Territories at which we met members of the forum. In addition, my officials have regular meetings with members of the forum.

British Overseas Territories: Climate Change

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that the interests of the UK Overseas Territories are recognised at the forthcoming UN climate change summit in Copenhagen. [293303]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is working in concert with the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the lead UK negotiating department on the forthcoming UN climate change summit in Copenhagen, to ensure that any commitments entered into at Copenhagen or subsequently will take into account the interests of the British Overseas Territories.

British Overseas Territories: Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* Overseas Territories and *(b)* Crown Dependencies are oil producers; and what their barrel production levels were in the latest year for which figures are available. [293447]

Chris Bryant: None of the British overseas territories is an oil producer. Information on the Crown dependencies is available from the Ministry of Justice which is responsible for the Crown dependencies.

British Overseas Territories: Environmental Charters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are being taken to ensure that the commitments outlined in the 2001 Environmental Charters signed between the United Kingdom and the UK Overseas Territories are being met. [293459]

Chris Bryant: We are in touch with the Overseas Territories about progress against the commitments set out in the Charters, and to establish how much the Territories use and value the Charters. The Charters were raised with Territory leaders at the Overseas Territories Consultative Council (the annual meeting of UK Ministers and Territory leaders) in 2007 and there have been discussions since then by officials at working level. The Overseas Territories Environment Programme, funded jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development, spends £1 million annually on projects in the Overseas Territories which are designed to help deliver the commitments in the Charters.

Both the UK and the Overseas Territories feel that, while the Charters provide a useful framework, they are too generic and need to be tailored to meet the specific needs of each territory. We are therefore looking to revise the Charters to make them more focused on individual territory needs.

British Overseas Territories: Prisoners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* prison capacity and *(b)* current jail population is in each of the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean. [293449]

Chris Bryant: The latest figures available are:

Overseas territory	*Certified normal accommodation*	*Current population*
Anguilla	35	58
British Virgin Islands	98	120
Cayman Islands	145	216
Montserrat	52	15
Turks and Caicos Islands	[1]102	108

[1] Rising shortly to 150

Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of accounts of a large number of graves of missing Greek Cypriot people having been found in a Turkish military zone site near Lapithos in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293710]

Chris Bryant: The Government have received no official account but is aware of reports in the Cypriot press.

Cyprus: Turkey

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Turkey in the last 12 months on steps to secure a political settlement in Cyprus. [293715]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had frequent discussions with the Government of Turkey in the last 12 months on a Cyprus settlement, most recently with Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu on 25 September 2009.

Cyprus: Visits Abroad

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* visits to and *(b)* meetings with Turkish Cypriots resident in the part of Cyprus governed by the Republic of Cyprus his Department has undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [293721]

Chris Bryant: Our high commission in Nicosia regularly visits and meets with a number of interlocutors from across the island. It is not possible to quantify the number of meetings and visits nor the residency and ethnicity of those people met.

Gaza: United Nations Fact Finding Mission

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made any representations to the government of Israel consequent upon the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict. [293678]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu on 18 September 2009 and again on 14 October 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Defence Minister Barak on 29 September 2009 and 13 October 2009.

We have made clear that, while the Goldstone report has its flaws, there are serious allegations against both Hamas and Israel. Israel has undertaken a number of investigations. But we do not believe these have yet adequately addressed the concerns. We urge Israel to investigate allegations fully and credibly to ensure that there is full accountability for any breaches of the rule of law.

Greece: Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Greece on a political settlement in Cyprus in the last 12 months. [293713]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had frequent discussions with the Government of Greece in the last 12 months on a Cyprus settlement, most recently with the Greek Prime Minister on 14 October 2009.

Guinea

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assurances he has received from the Government of Guinea that the investigation into the violence which took place at an Opposition rally on 28 September 2009 will be independent and impartial; and if he will make a statement. [293777]

David Miliband: The military-led Government in Guinea has offered to investigate the violence which took place at an opposition rally on 28 September 2009. However, the International Contact Group for Guinea, of which the UK is an active member, has recommended that any investigation needs to be independent, impartial and should be international in nature. We support this position and are consulting with the African Union, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other international partners about how such an investigation might be taken forward.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with members of the Africa Union on the situation in Guinea following the violence at an Opposition rally on 28 September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [293778]

David Miliband: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have been in close touch with the African Union through the International Contact Group for Guinea, including at the Group's last meeting in Abuja, Nigeria on 12 October 2009. Officials will also be discussing the situation with the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. We will continue to work closely with our partners in the African Union and with the West African regional body, the Economic Community of Western African States, to support their efforts to secure a peaceful resolution to the current tensions in Guinea.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to monitor the political situation in Guinea following the violence at an Opposition rally on 28 September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [293781]

David Miliband: Our ambassador in Guinea is an active member of the International Contact Group on Guinea and has maintained a constant dialogue with EU and G8 partners on the ground in order to ensure the UK fully monitors the political situation in Guinea. Our ambassadors in the region are also in contact with President Chambas of the Economic Community of West African States and the Governments of Guinea's neighbours.

Iraq

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken in co-operation with the United States Administration to improve the security of civilians in Iraq. [293311]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following the end of Combat Operations in April 2009, the UK continues to provide training and assistance to all of Iraq's security forces in conjunction with allies and partners. In-country activity includes: providing forensic training to the Iraqi police service; contributing UK police officers to the EU's JUSTLEX rule of law project; providing military training to the Iraqi army through the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Training Mission—Iraq (NTM-I) and we will also shortly recommence training and support to the Iraqi navy alongside US forces following the ratification of a UK-Iraq co-operation agreement. Activities in the UK include Iraqi attendance at a range of police and military training courses.

Iraq: Security

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Iraq. [293317]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Recent attacks, including on 19 August 2009 in Baghdad and on 11 October 2009 in Ramadi, show that terrorist groups are still trying to undermine the significant progress made in Iraq over recent years. Nevertheless, the overall security in Iraq continues to improve as the capability of the Iraqi security forces grows. Importantly, the Iraqi people in provincial and Kurdish regional elections this year chose leaders who promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law over those who offer nothing but violence. January 2010's national election will provide further proof of this.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take in response to the findings of the UN inquiry by Judge Goldstone into human rights abuses during the Gaza conflict. [291965]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu on 18 September 2009 and again on 14 October 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Defence Minister Barak on 29 September 2009 and 13 October 2009.

We have made clear that, while the Goldstone report has its flaws, there are serious allegations against both Hamas and Israel. Israel has undertaken a number of investigations. But we do not believe these have yet adequately addressed the concerns. We urge Israel to investigate allegations fully and credibly to ensure that there is full accountability for any breaches of the rule of law.

Northern Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Immovable Property Commission in providing a remedy for Greek Cypriots in respect of property in Northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293716]

Chris Bryant: The Immovable Property Commission (IPC) was set up in 2005 in an attempt to provide a local remedy to the disputed ownership of properties in Cyprus. There are currently eight test cases under review in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), with the aim of identifying whether the IPC can be used as an effective local remedy. It is for the ECHR to decide whether the IPC offers an effective local remedy.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* Greek Cypriots who have made a claim to the Immovable Property Commission in Northern Cyprus and *(b)* cases which have been resolved by that commission with (i) exchange of property, (ii) restitution and (iii) compensation; and if he will make a statement. [293717]

Chris Bryant: According to figures recently released, over the past three years 422 applications have been made to the Immovable Property Commission (IPC). Of these, 75 cases have been resolved: two were resolved with compensation and exchange; four with compensation and restitution; one for restitution after a settlement; and the remainder with compensation.

Nothern Cyprus: Property

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to amend the advice on his Department's website concerning the purchase of property in Northern Cyprus to take account of recent judgments of the European Court of Justice; and if he will make a statement. [293650]

Chris Bryant: Our travel advice warns of possible legal proceedings as a result of purchasing disputed properties in the north of Cyprus and strongly advises British citizens to take qualified and independent legal advice before purchasing such property. The Government's travel advice is constantly reviewed in light of changing events and will be updated as necessary.

Overseas Aid: Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the largest sum allocated by his Department to an overseas project to tackle domestic violence, specifying amounts, organisations and outcomes, was in each year since 2001; [292778]

(2) what plans he has for future spending on projects to tackle domestic violence overseas. [292779]

Chris Bryant: The Department for International Development leads on this issue globally and supports a range of initiatives aimed at tackling violence against women, including domestic violence, through its development assistance programmes. This has included work in Ghana and Sierra Leone supporting the implementation of new legislation on domestic violence; and in Nepal, providing technical assistance to the Prime Minister's Office on the National Campaign to end gender based violence.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has funded one related project on domestic violence overseas in the recent past. This was a three-year community policing project being run in Russia between 2006 and 2009 (at a cost of approximately £300,000) by the Global Opportunities Fund for Human Rights. The aim of the project was to train police officers on prevention of community and domestic violence, working with Justices of the Peace, Non-Governmental Organisations and relevant municipal organisations, to reduce domestic violence.

The FCO's Human Rights and Democracy Strategic Programme Fund supports projects on equality, including tackling the structural and institutional roots of gender discrimination through effective implementation of international law, but we do not have dedicated funds for tackling domestic violence and sexual abuse overseas.

South Atlantic Invasive Species Project

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there are plans to extend the South Atlantic Invasive Species project beyond December 2009. [293297]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The South Atlantic Invasive Species project is funded by the EU through European Development Funds. We are not aware of the EU's plans to fund the project beyond December 2009.

St. Helena: Electricity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 522W, on St. Helena: wind power, what targets have been set to meet St. Helena's electricity needs through wind power. [293420]

Chris Bryant: The wind power programme on St. Helena is the responsibility of St. Helena Government. St. Helena currently generates 25 MWh (3-4 per cent. of the total energy consumption) through wind power and has projected wind generation of 70 MWh (10 per cent. of consumption) per month from April 2010 when it is anticipated that all six turbines on St. Helena will be in operation.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of constitutional developments in the Turks and Caicos Islands; and if he will make a statement. [293305]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 9WS.

UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in assessing the potential impact of ratification of the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on UK law; when he expects the assessment to be completed; and if he will introduce primary legislation to permit the UK to ratify the Convention. [293125]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Government support the International Convention and believe that it will have an important role in preventing enforced disappearance and secret detention in the future. The UK played an active part in the negotiations prior to the drafting of the convention and supported its adoption in 2008 at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

The UK is prepared to give its signature to treaties only when it has a clear intention to ratify within a reasonable timescale. The Government are conscious of the potentially significant impact of the convention in the domestic context, and we are therefore continuing our detailed assessment of the provisions of the convention and their effect across all areas of UK law and policy.

In particular, we are analysing the extent to which common law provisions may need to be replicated in statute law; whether any new criminal offences would need to be introduced; and whether the UK would enter any reservations or declarations on ratification.

Ratification will require primary legislation to facilitate changes to domestic law and the introduction of such primary legislation will depend on securing parliamentary time. The complexity of the issues still under consideration means that we are not setting a deadline for completion of our analysis, but work is being progressed as rapidly as possible.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the Government to ratify the UN Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and what the reasons are for the time taken. [293129]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

The Government support the International Convention and believes that it will have an important role in preventing enforced disappearance and secret detention in the future. The UK played an active part in the negotiations prior to the drafting of the Convention and supported its adoption in 2008 at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

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USA: Nuclear Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on the international threat of nuclear proliferation. [293318]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regularly with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and did so most recently on 11 October 2009. Mrs. Clinton said after that meeting that British leadership had been pivotal in the run up to the historic UN Security Council session on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament chaired by President Barack Obama. The Council unanimously adopted UN resolution 1887 that affirmed its commitment to work toward a world without nuclear weapons.

Varosha

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the Turkish Cypriot claim to property rights in Varosha, as asserted by the land-holding foundation EFKAF; and if he will make a statement. [293699]

Chris Bryant: The Government have made no such assessment.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime: Northumberland

Mr. Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes and *(b)* violent crimes were reported in (i) Blyth Valley and (ii) Northumberland in the last four years. [289374]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following table.

A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

Table 3 Offences recorded by the police in Blyth Valley and Northumberland: 2005-06 to 2008-09

	Number of offences			
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Area and offence				
Blyth Valley local authority area	1,011	1,268	882	964
Violence against the person	5,637	5,913	5,112	4,977
Total recorded crime				

Table 3 Offences recorded by the police in Blyth Valley and Northumberland: 2005-06 to 2008-09

	Number of offences			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Northumberland Basic Command Unit				
Violence against the person	3,490	4.159	2,951	3,193
Total recorded crime	18,935	19,735	16,341	16,461

Human Trafficking: Greater London

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Metropolitan Police Service on the future of its specialist unit to combat trafficking in human beings; and if he will make a statement. [293856]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The deployment of resources and staff is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Human trafficking is core police business and, as such, work to combat this crime should be mainstreamed into existing budgets.

The Government provide additional funding of £435,000 to the Metropolitan Police for the current financial year to enable them to do so in line with other forces in England and Wales. This was done on the basis that such work would be funded from within their existing budget from the financial year 2010-11.

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether additional resources will be available for the Metropolitan Police to counteract any trafficking in human beings associated with the number of tourists expected to attend the London 2012 Olympics. [293863]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Human trafficking is core police business and as such should be resourced from within existing budgets.

Intelligence on human trafficking is assessed on a quarterly basis as part of the Olympics Organised Crime Threat Assessment. While intelligence does not suggest that there is any increase in human trafficking linked to the Olympics at the moment we remain vigilant. To this end the Clubs and Vice Unit of the Metropolitan police is working over the next three years to disrupt prostitution and recover victims, including victims of trafficking in the five Olympic boroughs.

Should the intelligence indicate an increase in trafficking we shall ensure that the appropriate measures are in place.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* senior officers in the West Midlands police service are from ethnic minorities. [291530]

Mr. Hanson: Data on the number of minority ethnic officers in West Midlands police service broken down by rank, as at 31 March 2009, are provided in the following table.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www. homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Minority ethnic officer strength in West Midlands police force, by rank, as at 31 March 2009, full-time equivalent

	Number
ACPO rank	1
Chief Superintendent	0
Superintendent	5
Chief Inspector	4
Inspector	29
Sergeant	74
Constable	550
Total	663

Rape: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of rape were reported in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead constituency, *(b)* Dacorum, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England and Wales in each of the last five years; and how many of them resulted in (i) a prosecution and (ii) a conviction. [289461]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested as it is not possible to track individual offences through to their outcome at court. The available information relates to the number of offences of rape recorded by the police in the last five financial years. Prosecutions and convictions data are based on the number of offenders and has been provided by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Table 1 gives the number of offences of rape recorded by the police in Dacorum, Hertfordshire and England and Wales. Data for Hemel Hempstead are not available. Table 2 provides data on the number of defendants proceeded against and convicted for all rape offences for Hertfordshire and England and Wales. Data for Hemel Hempstead and Dacorum are not available.

Table 1: Offences of rape recorded in the Dacorum crime and disorder reduction partnership area, Hertfordshire police force area and England and Wales

Financial year	*Dacorum*	*Hertfordshire*	*England and Wales*
2004-05	20	184	14,013
2005-06	22	211	14,443
2006-07	28	199	13,774
2007-08	21	172	12,639
2008-09	19	132	13,133

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape and attempted rape offences, Hertfordshire police force area and England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Proceed against	Found guilty	Proceed against	Found guilty	Proceed against	Found guilty	Proceed against	Found guilty	Proceed against	Found guilty
Hertfordshire police force area	38	10	55	13	51	8	57	8	25	12
England and Wales	2,790	673	2,689	751	2,826	796	2,567	863	2,363	873

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Terrorism

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what attacks on the UK were known to have been *(a)* planned and *(b)* executed by terrorist groups linked to (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Pakistan in the last 10 years. [293495]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* The majority of significant UK attack plots in this decade have had considerable links abroad, with a substantial proportion of these terrorist attacks and threats being associated with al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda and those groups and individuals affiliated to and influenced by them undoubtedly represent the greatest current terrorist threat to the UK. Al-Qaeda regards the UK as a key target, and as a potential source of recruits. As a result of international military action in Afghanistan, Al-Qaeda has largely been forced out of its 'safe havens' and is now mainly based on the Pakistan/Afghanistan border.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employers' Liability Insurance Policies

17. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations she has received on the mandatory arrangements for recording employers' liability insurance policies; and if she will make a statement. [293513]

Jonathan Shaw: We have received a range of representations on this issue including from hon. Members.

While the vast majority of people can trace their employers' liability insurance policies easily, too many still find it very difficult.

We are working closely with the insurance industry to improve the tracing of old policies so that those who need to access civil compensation are able to do so.

Jobseeker's Allowance

18. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the population in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Upminster constituency is claiming jobseeker's allowance. [293514]

Jim Knight: 4.2 per cent. of the working age population in Great Britain and 4 per cent. of the working age population in the Upminster parliamentary constituency is claiming jobseeker's allowance.

Departmental Contact Centre

21. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent assessment is of the performance of her Department's contact centre; and if she will make a statement. [293517]

Jim Knight: As of September 2009, the Department for Work and Pensions is currently responding to 99 per cent. of all customer calls to make new claims to working-age benefits with an average wait of 15 seconds for the call to be answered. This equates to over 637,000 customers helped by Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres in the last month alone.

Polygamous Marriages: Benefit Payments

22. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people in polygamous marriages who are in receipt of income-related benefits payments. [293518]

Jim Knight: Information on the numbers of polygamous marriages within the benefits system is not collected at a national level. However, arrangements within the benefit system ensure there is no advantageous treatment for people in polygamous marriages.

Youth Unemployment

23. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to reduce youth unemployment. [293519]

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government are taking to reduce youth unemployment. [293499]

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she is taking to reduce unemployment among young people; and if she will make a statement. [293505]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton).

Jobcentres

24. **Mr. Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations her Department has received on standards of customer service at Jobcentres. [293520]

Jim Knight: Jobcentre Plus receives many representations from various organisations and customers on its standards of service, many of which are positive. Jobcentre Plus continually works with these groups to improve the service it delivers to customers and key partners.

Employment Schemes: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2137W, on employment schemes: disabled, under what circumstances disabled people not in work and not in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance receive assistance from employment programmes; what her most recent estimate is of the number of disabled people who meet such criteria; and if she will make a statement. [292913]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The Department for Work and Pensions has not made such an estimate.

Employment: Sight Impaired

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment her Department has made of the effects of Braille literacy on the employment prospects of people who are visually impaired; and if she will make a statement. [293054]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions has not undertaken such an assessment.

Research Report

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in each birth cohort, are modelled as having a payback of *(a)* less than 0.5, *(b)* between 0.5 and 1, *(c)* between 1 and 1.5, *(d)* between 1.5 and 2, *(e)* between 2 and 2.5, *(f)* between 2.5 and 3 and *(g)* above 3 as shown in Figure 4.3 on page 55 of DWP Research Report number 558. [287115]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

Table 1: Number of those saving into a defined contribution pension at any point after 2012, with an employer contribution, in each payback group, by birth cohort

	Payback (£)						
	<1	1-1.5	1.5-2	2-2.5	2.5-3	>3	Total (million)
Birth cohort (Thousand)							
Pre-1960	250	650	1,250	450	200	650	3.4
1960-70	250	550	1,800	1,500	650	850	5.8
1970-80	150	350	1,000	1,500	1.300	1,450	5.8
1980-90	150	200	650	1,100	1,400	3,100	6.6
1990-2000	150	150	500	950	1,200	3,800	6.8

Note:
Population estimates are based on the modelled population and may be subject to sampling error. All numbers are rounded to the nearest 50,000.
Source:
Pensim2.

This table covers all individuals in these cohorts who save in any defined contribution pension with an employer contribution at any point after 2012. It is consistent with the payback figures presented in the report, "Saving for retirement: Implications of pensions reforms on financial incentives to save for retirement", published in February this year. Overall, less than 5 per cent. are modelled as expecting a payback of less than 1.

This table covers all cohorts who are expected to live out their lives before 2100, including many who will not enter the workforce and/or start saving until many years after 2012, and others who are already saving. As such, the figures should not be compared directly with new savers or those eligible for automatic enrolment in 2012.

Those with payback of less than 0.5 have not been shown separately due to the small sample size of this group in the model; they make up approximately a quarter of the group with payback of less than 1.

Please note that opt-out rates in the model are assigned randomly to employees, and do not take account of characteristics of individuals or how they might behave. The numbers in the lower payback groups may be over-estimated if those who go on to see high levels of benefit interactions are more likely to opt out. The figures are based on reasonable assumptions about the future as set out in "Saving for retirement: Implications of pensions reforms on financial incentives to save".

Work Capability Assessments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are in place to ensure consistency in work capability assessments. [293041]

Jonathan Shaw: All medical reports completed by Atos Healthcare, healthcare professionals who have successfully completed their training period are subject to 100 per cent. quality assessment before they are recommended for approval by the DWP Chief Medical Officer.

In addition, medical reports completed by healthcare professionals undertaking disability benefit medial examinations on behalf of the DWP and other Government Departments are subject to a rigorous and comprehensive audit system. The Integrated Quality Audit Systems (IQAS) which constitutes randomly selected audits is based on a statistically valid and robust audit process which is undertaken on every Atos Healthcare, healthcare professional on a monthly basis. Any reports found to be deficient in the audit are corrected prior to them being returned to the Departments' decision makers.

A healthcare professional's work can also be subjected to audit if it is found that any work is reported to be deficient on an opportunistic basis, for instance if the healthcare professional is subject to significant levels of customer complaints or the Department's Business Unit returns medical reports which are considered deficient by the decision maker.

Full-time Atos Healthcare Medical Services healthcare professionals who have undertaken specific training in audit work carry out the audit. Where there is any cause for concern, proactive management intervention ensures that remedial action is taken promptly as appropriate.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the annual financial contribution of the heritage sector to the economy. [292303]

Margaret Hodge: Heritage provides a vital contribution to the national economy and contributes to the success of a range of industries including tourism, retail, entertainment and construction. Although no aggregate figure is available, several studies of which English Heritage is aware have sought to identify the contribution within a particular context. In the north-west alone it is estimated that Heritage and its ancillaries contribute £1.6 billion in gross value added (GVA) to the economy.

A Heritage Lottery Fund study of major projects they completed in 2007 estimates them to have created £33 million in local GVA and to support the equivalent of 1,277 full-time equivalent jobs. Tourism, one of the largest industries in the UK, was estimated to be worth approximately £86 billion in 2007. Evidence from VisitBritain shows England's historic buildings are key motivators for those considering a visit to the country and they also top the table of activities undertaken by those who actually do visit.

Privately owned historic houses generate an economic contribution of over £1.6 billion; while England's cathedrals generate around £150 million per annum of benefits for the local and national economies.

Digital Broadcasting: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the time necessary to restore ITV channels to those homes no longer able to receive them as a result of the digital switchover in Wales; [294312]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to restore ITV channels to homes which lost them as a result of the digital switchover in Wales; [294313]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of homes that no longer receive ITV channels as a result of the digital switchover in Wales. [294314]

Mr. Simon: We believe that up to 1 million households could have been affected by the loss of ITV3 and ITV4 after the digital television retune. In some cases the services will be restored at digital switchover.

There is a licence requirement that the three Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) digital multiplexes, which carry the public service broadcasting channels, should reach 98.5 per cent. of UK households after Digital Switchover. Since the national re-tune, ITV3 and ITV4, which are not PSB channels, have been carried on commercial multiplexes where the licence post-Switchover requirement is that 90 per cent. of household coverage is achieved. Any decision to build out beyond 90 per cent. coverage would be a commercial decision for the multiplex operators.

E-Legal Deposits

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of e-legal deposits which would have been made to date had the e-legal deposit regulations come into force in accordance with the original timetable; and when he expects the regulations to enter into force. [293894]

Margaret Hodge: The Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 commenced on 1 February 2004. It was always the intention that the Act would be implemented progressively, as it is enabling legislation in a complex and challenging area. The Act made provision for the establishment of an advisory panel which was created in 2005. The panel produced its first set of recommendations in Autumn 2008, and a further set in spring 2009. Draft regulations which may result from those recommendations would be subject to full public consultation and to affirmative resolution in both Houses. I am working to ensure these matters are now expedited so that e-legal deposits are facilitated.

Historic Buildings: Conservation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many buildings were *(a)* added to and *(b)* removed from the Buildings At Risk Register in each year since 2000. [292302]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* English Heritage has advised that the number of buildings added to and removed from the national Buildings At Risk Register in each year since 2000 are as follows:

	Number of buildings removed from Buildings at Risk Register	*Number of buildings added to Buildings at Risk Register*
2008-09	69	64
2007-08	57	69
2006-07	88	52
2005-06	94	68
2004-05	91	58
2003-04	94	66
2002-03	114	98
2001-02	114	94
2000-01	109	102
1999-2000	108	141

The national Buildings At Risk Register includes Grade I and II* listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments (structures rather than earthworks) at risk.

Holiday Accommodation: Taxation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Treasury colleagues on the effect of the abolition of furnished holiday lettings tax relief on the tourism industry. [293431]

Margaret Hodge: My predecessor, the hon. Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett), raised this issue with Treasury colleagues and wrote to them setting out in detail the industry's concerns about these changes.

The Department remains in discussion with Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) about the impact of these rule changes on the tourism industry. HMRC will be publishing their assessment of this, together with draft legislation, at the same time that the pre-Budget report is issued.

ITV: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what response he has made to ITV regarding the proposal on its entitlement to a portion of the revenue from the television licence fee; and if he will make a statement. [293890]

Mr. Simon: The Government are not aware that ITV has made a proposal on its entitlement to a portion of the revenue from the television licence fee.

The Government have consulted on the sustainability of plurality of news in the Nations, locally and in the regions, and on the idea of using a small portion of the television licence fee, on a competitive basis, to support plurality of multi-media news provision. The consultation closed on 22 September; Government received 89 responses.

The Government are considering those responses and will set out their views in due course.

Monuments: Preservation

Shona McIsaac: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the state of preservation of war memorials. [292380]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage advises Ministers on matters relating to England's historic built environment. Statutory protection is given to those war memorials which are, or form part of, a listed building or scheduled ancient monument. There are approximately 1,200 purpose built war memorials that are listed buildings.

English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register contains only four designated war memorials considered to be at risk. In three cases, English Heritage is taking action in conjunction with the owners or the local authority to secure the preservation of the memorial in question and in the fourth case, the memorial is in local authority care.

Of the four memorials, one has received grant aid from English Heritage and a second has been offered such assistance.

English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register contains four designated war memorials at risk; three are listed buildings and the fourth is a Scheduled Monument.

Of the three listed buildings, one is in local authority care (action under consideration), another is in private ownership (action in hand in association with local authority) and the third is in the care of a charitable trust (action in hand with grant-aid from English Heritage).

The joint owners of the scheduled war memorial have been offered a grant for repair under the English Heritage/Wolf son Foundation grant scheme.

Listed buildings

1. In local authority care (action under consideration)—War memorial, Saltburn by Sea, Tees Valley. Grade 11*. Arts and Crafts style memorial to the dead of the Great War 1914-18 with bronze sculpture by Sir Willam Reynolds-Stephens. A community-based group is promoting a scheme for the restoration of the memorial and it's setting, in conjunction with the local authority. EH is to liaise with local authority over repairs proposals.

2. In private ownership (action in hand in association with local authority)—Islington War Memorial Arch, Manor Gardens, London. Grade 11. Listed War memorial designed by Percy Adams, formally part of the Royal Northern Hospital. Repairs being carried out in discussion with local authority.

3. In the care of a charitable trust (action in hand with grant-aid from English Heritage)—Thanksgiving Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Blackpool. Grade 11*. 20th century war memorial chapel. £70,560 offered in 2006 towards urgent repairs. Further work is envisaged. In the care of the Historic Chapels Trust (ongoing EH grant-aid).

Scheduled war memorial

The joint owners of the scheduled war memorial have been offered a grant for repair under the English Heritage/Wolfson Foundation grant scheme—Montreal Park Obelisk, Riverhead, Kent. 18th century monument to the Canadian wars. £1,130 offered in 2007 towards repairs under the War Memorials Grant Scheme. This has not yet been taken up.

Tourism: Costs

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the travel and tourism industry on the effects of single person supplements on tourism. [293633]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Office of Fair Trading have previously examined the question of single person supplements and concluded that wherever there was a reasonable economic case for such charges decisions on the charging of supplements are primarily matters for the industry.

Tourism: Marketing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government spent on *(a)* marketing Britain overseas and *(b)* marketing England in the UK in (i) 1997, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [292363]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS provides public funding to VisitBritain for promoting Britain as a tourist destination to overseas markets. VisitEngland receives public funding from within VisitBritain's allocation for promoting England as a tourist destination to the domestic market.

The following table outlines the information requested:

£000

	Net expenditure on marketing	*Domestic expenditure*	*Overseas expenditure*
2006-07	28,913	10,428	18,485
2007-08	32,093	12,907	19,186
2008-09	31,846	10,084	21,762

Source:
VisitBritain

VisitBritain was created in 2003. It was formed out of a merger between the British Tourist Authority and the English Tourist Board. I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested for 1997 as soon as possible.

HEALTH

Arthritis

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of average waiting times for rheumatoid arthritis patients for follow-up consultations with a rheumatology specialist in *(a)* Nottingham North constituency and *(b)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [292773]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect waiting times data for follow-up consultations at specialty level.

Data published by the Department looking on an all speciality basis show that the ratio of subsequent attendance (follow-up) to first out-patient appointment has remained broadly stable over the last three years at around two (subsequent attendances) to one (first out-patient appointment).

Source:
Department of Health Monthly Activity Return (MAR) and Quarterly Activity Return (QAR)

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of regional variations in the availability of treatments for rheumatoid arthritis approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; [292774]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implementation of clinical guideline 79 issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for rheumatoid arthritis in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust. [292775]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not made any specific assessment of regional variations in the availability of treatments for rheumatoid arthritis approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) or on the implementation of clinical guideline 79 issued by NICE for rheumatoid arthritis in each strategic health authority and primary care trust. It is the responsibility of national health service bodies to implement NICE guidance and NICE publishes a number of implementation tools alongside its guidance to help facilitate this.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable has been set for increasing the level of payments made to haemophiliacs infected with HIV through contaminated blood products, as referred to in his Department's response to Lord Archer's report on Contaminated Blood and Blood Products; and if he will make a statement. [294048]

Gillian Merron: The starting date for the increased level of payments has been set at 20 May 2009, the date on which the Government's response to Lord Archer's report was published. All payments will be backdated to that date.

We are anxious that the new arrangements for the beneficiaries of the Macfarlane and Eileen trusts are carefully worked out in discussion with the trustees. Departmental officials are working with the trusts to that end.

Cancer: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many free prescriptions for patients diagnosed with cancer in Tamworth constituency have been dispensed since the inception of the scheme; and at what cost. [293776]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally.

Dementia: Drugs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the publication of the report by Professor Sube Banerjee on the use of anti-psychotic drugs; and if he will make a statement. [293100]

Phil Hope: The review by Professor Sube Banerjee on the prescribing of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia will be published in November.

Dental Services: Waiting Lists

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what waiting time target his Department has set for a person to obtain an appointment at a dental practice which holds a contract to deliver NHS services. [293393]

Ann Keen: Managing appointments appropriately, and in a timely manner, is a matter for dental providers and primary care trusts.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293241]

Phil Hope: The Department does not currently collect data centrally on the number of contracts awarded to small businesses.

However, following the publication of the Glover report in November 2008, the Office of Government Commerce established its 'Access For All' programme in April 2009. This was developed to coordinate the implementation of the Glover Committee recommendations across Government and the public sector. One of the recommendations is that all Government Departments report annually on their contract spend with small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The Department is fully committed to supporting this work.

The Department is responsible for two agencies:

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA)—a snapshot of current contracts on 14 October 2009, shows that the ratio of SME awarded contracts against all NHS PASA awarded contracts is currently 31 per cent. Data for the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are not available broken down on an annual basis.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)—MHRA does not currently collect data centrally on the number of contracts awarded to small businesses.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on first-class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293333][1]

Phil Hope: The Department has spent the following on first-class travel.

	£
2006-07	4,640,501.02
2007-08	4,977,335.59
2008-09	6,475,462.75

It should be noted that the above figures represent travel booked through the central booking system which constitutes the vast majority of how travel is booked and paid for.

Depressive Illnesses

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the NHS is taking to improve clinical outcomes from treatment provided to patients diagnosed with *(a)* major depression, *(b)* atypical depression, *(c)* psychotic depression, *(d)* dysthymia and *(e)* manic depression. [293602]

Phil Hope: Since 2001-02, total planned investment in adult mental health services has increased by 50 per cent. (£2.0 billion), putting in place the extra services and staff needed to transform mental health services. Nine consecutive years of increased spending by the national health service on mental health services has provided more staff, and increasing numbers of people with a severe mental illness are receiving treatment from community teams outside of hospital settings.

Our significant investment in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT), will see annual funding rising to £173 million, 3,600 extra therapists trained and 900,000 more people treated by 2011. This investment in IAPT will help to add to the existing provision of psychological therapies, increase capacity, reduce waiting times and drive up quality standards.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) expects to issue revised guidance on treating depression later this year. NICE issued guidance on treating bipolar disorder in 2006, which indicates evidence-based approaches to treatment and covers psychological as well as drug treatments for these conditions. General practitioners and consultant psychiatrists are expected to take NICE guidance fully into account when deciding on the most appropriate treatment for their patients.

Doctors: Training

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* medical trainees expected to achieve Certificate of Completion of Training status in each of the next five years and *(b)* consultant posts likely to be available in each such year. [293340]

Ann Keen: The Workforce Review Team (WRT) prediction of the number of medical trainees expected to achieve Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) status in each of the next five years is shown in the following table:

	Projected graduates 2008
2009-10	5,750
2010-11	6,225
2011-12	5,650
2012-13	5,877
2013-14	5,400

Notes:

1. The data are for junior doctors expecting to reach their CCT (secondary and general practitioner) in the coming years. This will not be pure growth in the number of trained doctors in the national health service since many will be recruited to replace retirements etc. of existing work force.

2. These are expected CCT dates and are subject to variation due to failure for doctors to progress through training as expected which can be for many reasons for example maternity leave, educational issues, illness, undertaking research.

3. Also to clarify these will be graduates of higher specialty post graduate training and not medical school graduates.

Local NHS organisations are best placed to determine the levels of service and resource required to meet the health needs of the local population. Therefore, the number of consultant posts likely to be available in each year is not collected centrally.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the practical experience gained by medical trainees specialising in surgery of trends in the use of *(a)* out-of-hours lists and *(b)* independent sector treatment centres for routine operations. [293341]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not commissioned any specific research in this area but is aware, through stakeholder engagement, of issues relating to postgraduate medical training. Evidence of the impact on training of using out of hours lists and independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) is anecdotal and variable.

However, wherever training takes place, trainee doctors cannot progress through training unless they have demonstrated they are competent and have met the standards set by the competent authority, which in this case is the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board.

In 2006, the Department published its policy on training in independent sector treatment centres. This stated that any training that takes place in ISTCs will be required to meet the same standards as training in other organisations. The Department will also publish shortly the Staff Passport. This will clarify how training standards will continue to be met given the plurality of providers.

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[1] *[Official Report, 22 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 7-8MC]*

Drugs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission a study into the impact of the parallel trade of medicines within the European Union on the supply of medicines in England. [293120]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have no plans to commission such a study. We are monitoring the situation closely and are in regular contact with pharmaceutical companies, wholesalers and pharmacy bodies.

Drugs: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of counterfeit medicines entering the UK via a parallel trader were recorded in each month of the last two years. [293117]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been no reported cases of counterfeit medicines entering the United Kingdom via a parallel trader in the last two years. The last instance was in May 2007 where four recalls were issued in respect of three specific medicines which had entered the UK market through that route.

No fatalities or serious adverse reactions have been attributed to counterfeit medicines in the UK up to now.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* acute, *(b)* elderly, *(c)* mental health, *(d)* children's *(e)* maternity and *(f)* other Nightingale wards have been recorded in Estates Return Collection Information as in use in each NHS organisation in each year since 1997. [291784]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the precise format requested.

Since 2002-03, the Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts on the number of Nightingale wards in use over the reporting year, through the estates returns information collection. Since 2005-06, the data has been collected on a voluntary basis and therefore will not be complete. The available data for each year since 2002-03 has been placed in the Library.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended or validated centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's involvement in the Conference on Healthcare Associated Infection on 31 October 2008, what assessment he has made of the subsequent consensus statement; and if he will make a statement. [293874]

Ann Keen: The Department welcomes initiatives to help reduce healthcare associated infections and was pleased to participate in the conference on 'The Relevance of Healthcare Associated Infection in Modern Surgical Practice'. The consensus statement issued subsequently by the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain is likely to be of wide interest to the health s[illegible]. The statement aims to heighten awareness of healthcare associated infections amongst national health service clinicians and managers. It also highlights the benefits of evidence based approaches, such as the care bundles used in our programme to reduce infections. It therefore makes a positive contribution to combating these infections.

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports of suspected adverse reactions to the *(a)* AHPVA021BA and *(b)* AHPVA024BA batch of the Cervarix vaccine have been made to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. [293279]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As of 13 October 2009, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has received 254 suspected adverse drug reaction (ADR) reports for Cervarix vaccine with the batch number AHPVA021BA, and 129 suspected ADR reports for the batch number AHPVA024BA. It is noted that four suspected ADR reports received by MHRA related to patients who have received a Cervarix vaccination from both batches.

MHRA has not identified any safety concerns or batch defects associated with the Cervarix batch numbers AHPVA021BA and AHPVA024BA. As with any vaccine, the MHRA will continue to closely monitor the safety of Cervarix during usage in the immunisation programme and publishes regular summaries of all suspected ADR reports associated with Cervarix on its website:

www.mhra.gov.uk

McKinsey and Company

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on the report commissioned by his Department from McKinsey and Company on reducing costs. [293249]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is commercial and publishing it would raise issues of commercial confidentiality.

National Archives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files held by his Department have been transferred to the National Archives during each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [293285]

Phil Hope: The Department has not transferred any files to The National Archives in the last 12 months. The Department normally transfers material on an annual basis rather than monthly. The list of files being prepared for transfer have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files held by his Department will be transferred to the National Archives during each of the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [293286]

Phil Hope: Records created by the Department during the years 1982-87 that were marked to be considered for permanent preservation are being assessed for transfer to the National Archives. The recommendations of the Department's reviewers will be considered jointly with the National Archives, and an agreed list of files for transfer will be completed. It is not possible to state at this time which files will be included in that list.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place for monitoring compliance with (a) National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guidelines and (b) NICE technology appraisals. [293875]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2008-09, national health service organisations were asked to assess themselves against a core standard that incorporates compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) technology appraisals. These self-assessments were independently validated by the Care Quality Commission and showed that 95.2 per cent, of NHS organisations could provide evidence of compliance with this standard.

Clinical guidelines relate to a whole pathway of care and can make a large number of recommendations spanning all stages of care from diagnosis to treatment of a condition. In view of their complexity and because of the different states of readiness for implementation in the NHS, clinical guidelines are not subject to the same performance management assessment as NICE's technology appraisals. Compliance with NICE's clinical guidelines is a developmental standard for NHS organisations and the Government expect NHS organisations to implement them over time using available resources.

Use of NICE technology appraisals and clinical guidelines to prioritise investment and promote quality improvement is one of the ways in which primary care trusts can demonstrate progress towards becoming world class commissioners under the world class commissioning assurance framework.

NHS: Ernst and Young

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the value for money of the consultancy work provided to the NHS by Ernst and Young. [294004]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not undertaken a separate assessment of the work provided to the national health service by Ernst and Young. As part of its ongoing drive to make the NHS accountable at a local level, the NHS constitution and the statement of NHS accountability have placed the emphasis on ensuring value for money to the boards of NHS organisations.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on proposals from the Economic Counsellor of the IMF that reforms are required in the healthcare system to tackle the UK's budget deficit. [294005]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has had no discussions with the IMF, who did not make specific reform proposals. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget sets out a plan to address the Budget deficit. The implications for individual Government Departments will be set out in the next Spending Review, however the ministerial team has ongoing discussions about reforms needed to deliver best value from available national health service resources.

Oral Surgery Review Committee

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Oral Surgery Review Committee first met; what the Committee's terms of reference are; how much notice of the meeting was given to members of the Committee; who the members of the Committee are; what relevant qualifications each has; and which members *(a)* attended and *(b)* did not attend the meeting. [293157]

Ann Keen: The Oral Surgery working group first met on 23 September 2009, members were given 52 days notice of the meeting.

The group's draft terms of reference, which are yet to be finalised, are: to understand the background of how the specialty of oral surgery (OS) has developed to date and its relationship to Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS);to examine the service implications of the development of the specialty of OS; to identify the needs and expectations of patients and the public; to examine the current provision of education and training in OS; to assess the cost implications of the development and commissioning of OS; to assess the availability and accessibility of specialist services in both OS and OMFS with a specific focus on how the needs of patients and the public are currently met; and to consider the implications of any recommendations made by the OS review group and their feasibility.

Details of committee members are listed in the following table, with a note of whether they attended the first meeting.

Name	*Title/role*	*Attendance at meeting on 23 September 2009*
Professor Nairn Wilson (Chair)	Dean and Head of Institute, King's College London.	Yes
Keith Altman	Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Chair of the British Dental Association's Central Committee for Hospital Dental Services.	—
Barry Cockcroft	Chief Dental Officer, England.	—
Professor Chris Franklin	Chair of the Committee of Postgraduate Dental Deans and Directors.	Yes
Michael Hahn	Consultant Oral Surgeon.	Yes

Name	*Title/role*	*Attendance at meeting on 23 September 2009*
Richard Hayward	Oral Surgeon working in general practice, former Dean of Faculty of General Dental Practice.	Yes
James Parker	Oral Surgeon working in hospital, past President of the British Association of Oral surgery.	Yes
Bernard Speculand	Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon.	Yes
Derrick Willmot	Dean of Faculty of Dental Surgery.	Yes
Amit Bose	Policy Manager, Department of Health.	Yes
Rachel Noble	Project Manager.	Yes
Jerry Read	Head of Oral Health Section, Department of Health.	Yes

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293476]

Phil Hope: Of the Department's 10 non-departmental public bodies, only the Care Quality Commission sent representatives to the political party conferences in 2009.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on reimbursements of No Cheaper Stock Obtainable concessions in each month between June 2008 and September 2009. [293118]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many No Cheaper Stock Obtainable applications from the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee were *(a)* received and *(b)* granted in each month between June 2008 and September 2009. [293119]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of No Cheaper Stock Obtainable applications received and granted in each month between June 2008 and September 2009 is shown in the following table.

	Applications received from Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee	*Applications granted by the Department of Health*
June 2008	5	5
July 2008	5	4
August 2008	2	2
September2008	2	2
October 2008	3	2
November 2008	9	8
December 2008	4	4
January 2009	4	3
February 2009	3	2
March 2009	5	3
April 2009	6	6
May 2009	5	5
June 2009	6	5
July 2009	6	6
August 2009	7	4
September 2009	6	5
Total	78	66

Source:
NHS Prescription Services Record of Concessions

Some applications granted may be for the same product in different months.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 233W, on the school fruit and vegetable scheme, when the pilot scheme will be complete; and when he expects the results of the pilot to be available. [294139]

Gillian Merron: There are no current pilots for the school fruit and vegetable scheme (SFVS). The scheme was originally piloted in more than 500 schools throughout England in 2000 and 2001 as the 'National Fruit Scheme'. An evaluation of the scheme can be found at the following address:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4009412

The scheme was taken over from the Big Lottery Fund by the Department in 2004 and is now operating throughout England.

Working in partnership with nutritionists from Leeds university, the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) evaluated the impact of the SFVS, and results were published in September 2007 on the Department's website at the following address:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/FiveADay/FiveADaygeneralinformation/DH_4002149

Further evaluation of the scheme by NFER started in May 2009, and is expected to be published sometime later this year.

Strokes

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new cases of *(a)* stroke and *(b)* transient ischaemic attack occurred in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. [293190]

Ann Keen: The Information Centre for health and social care has provided the data requested. This information has been placed in the Library.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 765W, on swine flu, who will be responsible for giving housebound patients swine influenza vaccinations. [294114]

Gillian Merron: Arrangements for the vaccination of housebound patients against swine influenza will be the same as for seasonal influenza. As with seasonal influenza we are not being prescriptive about who should vaccinate housebound patients. It will be for primary care trusts to decide which health care professionals are best placed to vaccinate this group of patients but we would normally expect this to be undertaken by community nursing staff who are in regular contact with these patients anyway.

Thalidomide

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review his policy on the provision of state financial aid for people affected adversely by thalidomide; and if he will make a statement. [292797]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Thalidomide survivors are already compensated through a private settlement agreed between the Thalidomide Trust, the body established to administer payments to survivors, and Diageo PLC.

I am meeting with the National Advisory Council to the Thalidomide Trust on the 22 October to explore ways of improving access to personal budgets and direct payments in social care, as well as the feasibility of developing a pilot that tests the use of personal health budgets for thalidomide survivors.

Vulnerable Adults: Protection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the publication of the Government's response to its consultation, "No secrets: guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse"; and if he will make a statement. [293102]

Phil Hope: The consultation on the review of "No secrets" was comprehensive and wide-ranging.

We were pleased that such a large number of people contributed to the review. A wide range of professionals, totalling approximately 9,000 and including social workers, health staff, police officers, probation staff, lawyers and many others, participated. We were particularly pleased that some 3,000 members of the public took part, including those with learning difficulties, older people, those with mental health problems and people from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, who came to the consultation events and debated and discussed the many issues with us.

The summary of the responses was published in July this year, together with all the responses from organisations. The analysis and consideration of such a large volume of responses takes time; these are complex matters, which cut across health, social care and the criminal justice system. The Government response is being prepared by four Departments; the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Attorney-General's Office and the Department of Health.

We are examining all the issues raised and plan to make an announcement later this year.

Warfarin

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received warfarin prescribed by a GP in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. [293191]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The number of patients prescribed a specific medicine is not collected centrally. Information on the number of warfarin prescription items prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, by primary care trust, has been placed in the Library.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to increase levels of access to broadband services since the publication of the Digital Britain report; and if he will make a statement. [294189]

Mr. Timms: The Department has recently set up the Network Design and Procurement Company which it pledged to do in the Digital Britain Report. The company will be responsible for the procurement process to deliver the necessary upgrade and replacement works to deliver the Universal Service Commitment (USC) for 2Mbps to virtually every community by 2012 and, in due course, the administration of the Next Generation Fund outlined in the Digital Britain White Paper.

On take up of broadband and the Digital Inclusion agenda, the Government have also appointed Martha Lane Fox as our Digital Inclusion Champion. Her role will be to find ways of helping people without previous experience of computers to develop the skills needed to make use of the internet in order to take advantage of the benefits it offers.

Business

Ann Winterton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of overseas outsourcing on the UK labour market. [293507]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has made no formal assessment of the effect of overseas outsourcing on the UK labour market, though it has commissioned research in this area, notably on offshoring and wage inequality in the UK in 2007 (available on the BIS website) and a report from OVUM: "The impact of global sourcing on the UK software and IT services sector" in June 2006.

The Department also continues to monitor academic and other studies into overseas outsourcing. These have suggested that there are no significant links between overseas outsourcing and lower overall employment.

Business Council for Britain

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times the Business Council for Britain has met in the last four years. [291889]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since it was established in June 2007, the Business Council for Britain has met formally seven times.

Business Council for Britain: Finance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what costs the Business Council for Britain has incurred in the last four years. [291888]

Ms Rosie Winterton: BIS provides secretariat support for the Business Council for Britain. Since it was established in June 2007, the Business Council has incurred a sum of £870 for hospitality, but no other costs for travel or other expenses.

Business Link

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Business Link staff have been disciplined for financial irregularities in each of the last four years. [291970]

Ms Rosie Winterton: "Disciplined for financial irregularities" has been defined as any sanction under each employers disciplinary policy and procedures relating to breach of rules relating to financial transactions.

No Business Link employee who was directly employed in the provision of the Business Link service, by RDAs and their Business Link Providers, has been disciplined for financial irregularities since delivery of the Business Link service was contracted by RDAs to the current Business Link Providers. RDAs are unable to access the records of previous providers of the Business Link service.

Business Link: Travel

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* standard, *(b)* business and *(c)* first class air travel by Business Link in each of the last four years. [292919]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 October 2009]*: To gather this data to the level of detail and within the timeframe requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurants by Business Link staff in each of the last four years. [292930]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 October 2009]*: To gather this data to the level of detail requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Business: Government Assistance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in each constituency have received trade credit insurance under the Working Capital Scheme. [288655]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 July 2009]*: As of 2 October, 58 suppliers have purchased Trade Credit Insurance under the Government Top-up Scheme, in the following constituencies.

Constituency	*Number of suppliers*
Belfast South	1
Birkenhead	1
Birmingham, Ladywood	2
Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath	2
Bradford North	1
Broxbourne	1
Burnley	1
Cannock Chase	1
Cities of London and Westminster	1
Cleethorpes	1
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	1
East Hampshire	1
East Londonderry	1
Eccles	1
Elmet	1
Exeter	1
Folkestone and Hythe	1
Harlow	1
Heywood and Middleton	1
Holborn and St. Pancras	1
Huntingdon	1
Islwyn	1
Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	1
Luton South	1
Manchester, Blackley	1
Mole Valley	1
Neath	1
Normanton	1
North Devon	1
North Dorset	1
North East Milton Keynes	1
North Warwickshire	1
Northampton South	2
Nuneaton	1
Ochil and South Perthshire	1
Reading West	1
Richmond Park	2
Saffron Walden	1
Scunthorpe	1
Sheffield, Attercliffe	1
Shipley	1
South Derbyshire	1
Stirling	1
Telford	1
Tyne Bridge	1
Vale of York	1

Constituency	*Number of suppliers*
Walsall South	2
Welwyn Hatfield	1
West Bromwich West	2
Wokingham	1
Wolverhampton South West	1
Wyre Forest	1
Total	58

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much had been lent by each approved lender under the Enterprise Finances Guarantee scheme since 14 January 2009. [292148]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 October 2009]*: In relation to the amount of lending made by individual approved lenders I consider it important, at this stage, to maintain the confidentiality of information exchanged between Capital for Enterprise Limited (CFEL), which administers EFG on behalf of BIS, and participating lenders to maintain the trust of lenders using EFG and to maximise its use and effectiveness.

However, as of 7 October, over £860 million of eligible applications from over 7,500 firms has been granted, being processed or assessed by 27 active lenders. Of which, over 5,600 businesses have been offered loans totalling over £575 million.

CFEL and BIS closely monitor lending under the scheme, and the Department via CFEL is in regular contact with the central EFG teams for each approved lender.

Business: Insurance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2067W, on business insurance, what the monetary value of applications approved to date under the Trade Credit Insurance Scheme is. [292094]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 October 2009]*: As of 2 October, the value of cover provided by approved applications under the Trade Credit Insurance Top-up Scheme is £13,029,000.

Business: Meetings

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met representatives of small businesses in the last 12 months to discuss security issues for such businesses arising from proposals to phase out cheques as methods of payment. [291744]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time equivalent officials in his Department work on the Pay and Work Rights telephone helpline service. [293642]

Mr. McFadden: There are six full-time equivalent officials in the Department who work on the Pay and Work Rights helpline, and the associated vulnerable workers awareness campaign. The helpline itself is provided by a third party supplier.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of calls per calendar month to his Department's Pay and Work Rights telephone helpline service since the establishment of the service. [293643]

Mr. McFadden: The Department estimates that the average monthly call volume, including uplift due to the vulnerable workers awareness raising campaign, to the Pay and Work Rights helpline will be 6,000-15,000.

Gloucester Linkages Project

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to conclude his deliberations on the Gloucester Economic Linkages Project. [293964]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has now approved the additional funding of £7.7 million being sought for the Gloucester Economic Linkages Project. I have today written to the South West Regional Development Agency informing them of this decision.

Regional Development Agencies: Manpower

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of staff of each regional development agency are *(a)* black and minority ethnic people and *(b)* women. [291759]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Staff are taken to be any individual who is directly paid and employed by the agency on a permanent or fixed term contract. The figures in the table exclude temporary staff, seconded staff, contractors, external consultants, chair and board members.

The following table provides the latest data held by each RDA:

RDA	*Number of staff members who identify as BME*	*Percentage of total staff who identify as BME*	*Number of staff members who are female*	*Percentage of total staff who are female*
AWM	54	15.1	180	49.7
EEDA[1]	6	2.6	128	55.9
EMDA	28	10	161	58
LDA	154	26.6	302	52.1
NWDA	36	8	206	43
ONE	11	2.6	274	65

RDA	*Number of staff members who identify as BME*	*Percentage of total staff who identify as BME*	*Number of staff members who are female*	*Percentage of total staff who are female*
SEEDA[2]	15	4.6	194	59.7
SWRDA[3]	3	1	205	58
YR	48	10.6	268	60.6

[1] The figure on BME staff is an estimate based on EEDA's internal CIPHR system, which requires staff to enter their ethnic classification. Not all EEDA staff have completed this section.

[2] Key population data for the south east (based on the latest Census) shows the population of the south east as 4.9 per cent. BME.

[3] Key population data for the south west (based on the latest Census) shows the population of the south west as 98 per cent. white. Please also note that the figure on BME staff is an estimate based on SWRDA's internal monitoring system, which requests staff to enter their ethnic classification. Not all SWRDA staff have completed this section.

Regional Development Agencies: Official Hospitality

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements pertain to the receipt of hospitality by *(a)* staff and *(b)* board members of each regional development agency. [291477]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Each regional development agency (RDA) has established policy and procedures for the receipt of gifts and hospitality. All RDA staff and board members must declare gifts and hospitality received according to each RDAs' policy in their official registers.

Regional Development Agencies: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* the Chief Executive and *(b)* each board member of each regional development agency in each of the last three years. [277992]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* The information is as follows.

1. The financial value of the bonus payments made to RDA Chief Executives stated relates to performance against objectives delivered in the previous year. Details for each RDA are set out in the table.

2. Board members are not awarded performance related bonuses.

3. The data exclude London, which is the responsibility of the Mayor.

£

RDA	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
AWM	20,697.48	22,341	23,102
EEDA	20,000	22,000	18,000
EMDA	16,515	21,225	22,838
NWDA[1]	22,649	22,649	19,252
ONE	22,594	23,278	23,102
SEEDA	25,500	17,404	24,579
South West RDA[2]	20,212	15,766	16,422
YF[3]	20,000	[3]26,000	17,000

[1] NWDAs bonus payments for 2005/06 and 06/07 were the same as they were both calculated on the 2006/07 salary as 2005/06 award was received late in the year.

[2] During 2006/07 SWRDA changed CEO. The figures for this year include costs for two CEOs.

[3] During 2005/06, YF changed CEO. The figure for 2006/07 is therefore comprised of bonuses paid to two CEOs and breaks down into separate payments £23,000 and £3,000 respectively.

Royal Mail: Meetings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings the management of Royal Mail has had with the Communication Workers Union *(a)* since 2007 and *(b)* during 2009. [294546]

Mr. McFadden: Meetings that the management of Royal Mail has had with the Communication Workers Union are a matter which is the responsibility of Royal Mail's management. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Shareholder Executive

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure the Shareholder Executive incurred on external advisory services in relation to the Launch Investment Support for *(a)* GKN and *(b)* Bombardier. [291896]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Shareholder Executive incurred no expenditure on external advisory services in relation to its work on the applications made by GKN or Bombardier although external advisers were appointed by the Department's Aerospace Industry Group.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been raised from the sale of assets from the Shareholder Executive portfolio in each of the last four years. [291897]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following table:

	US$ billion
2005-06	5.4
	0.3
2006-07	0
2007-08	2.4
2008-09	5.2

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure the Shareholder Executive incurred on external advisory services in each of the last four years. [291898]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following table:

	£ Million
2005-06	4.7
2006-07	4.6
2007-08	[1]3.1
2008-09	[2]5

[1] £2.9 million gross spend less £6 million recovered.

[2] £11.4 million gross spend less £6.4 million recovered.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure the Shareholder Executive incurred on each class of air travel in each of the last four years. [291899]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not keep a record of class of air travel. A mixture of standard and business class is used dependent on availability and flexibility of flights.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure the Shareholder Executive incurred on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel, *(d)* hotels and *(e)* restaurants in each of the last four years; and what proportion of such expenditure was incurred in respect of the Corporate Finance Practice. [291900]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows expenditure incurred by Shareholder Executive (ShEx) in each area for each of the last four financial years and how much of this was incurred by Corporate Finance Practice (CFP). We do not have a breakdown for expenditure incurred in "*(e)* restaurants" as such claims are made as part of wider subsistence claims.

				£000
	Car hire (taxis)	*Rail travel*	*Air travel*	*Hotels*
2005-06				
ShEx	22.4	20.9	38.2	3.4
CFP	1.5	3.2	4.9	0.4
2006-07				
ShEx	17.8	18.6	9.3	5.9
CFP	1.1	5.2	4.4	0.8
2007-08				
ShEx	11.3	23.2	12.0	6.4
CFP	1.1	4.8	2.7	0.9
2008-09				
ShEx	13.6	44.6	20.6	4.9
CFP	0.5	5.8	0.3	0.3

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much the Shareholder Executive spent on staff entertainment in each of the last four years. [291901]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following table:

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	170
2007-08	420
2008-09	555

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people were employed in the Corporate Finance Practice of the Shareholder Executive in each of the last four years. [291942]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of staff employed in the Corporate Finance Practice (CFP) at the end of each of the last four financial years was as follows:

	Number
2005-06	3
2006-07	3
2007-08	7
2008-09	8

The number of staff currently employed in CFP is 11.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times representatives of the Shareholder Executive have met the Executive's Advisory Group since May 2008. [291943]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Representatives of the Shareholder Executive have met the Advisory Group on six occasions since May 2008.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of progress towards achieving the Government's target for asset sales from the Shareholder Executive in each of the last four years. [292716]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have announced a target of securing £16 billion from asset and property disposals for the period to end-March 2014. Of this, £3 billion is expected to come from asset sales. Shareholder Executive is working with HM Treasury and other asset-owning Departments to progress this work. An update on progress against this target will be included in the autumn pre-Budget report.

Shareholder Executive has not previously been set targets for asset sales.

Students: Loans

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what his most recent estimate is of the amount owing to the Student Loans Company in repayments and loans; [294116]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of students who owe money for *(a)* tuition fee loans and *(b)* maintenance loans. [294117]

Mr. Lammy: Provisional information shows that at the end of financial year 2008-09 the total student loan balance for England was £25.97 billion. This includes loans not yet due for repayment and covers fee loans and maintenance loans, including the older mortgage style loans. At the same point in time there were 962,300 borrowers with tuition fee loans. There were 2,866,000 borrowers with maintenance loans, of whom 298,200 had the older mortgage style loans.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposed sale of the student loans book on *(a)* the interest rate on student loans and *(b)* students who are borrowing or repaying loans; and if he will make a statement. [294118]

Mr. Lammy: Regardless of whether a loan is sold or retained, there will be no change in the regulations, terms and conditions for existing loans. Purchasers of sold loans will not be able to charge a different rate of interest; they will not be able to change the income threshold for repayments; and they will not be able to use a borrower's personal details for any purpose beyond that which is required for management of the loans.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what data his Department and its predecessor holds on the level of diversity in its recruitment of employees in each of the last three years. [290512]

Joan Ruddock: No data are available centrally from either BIS or DEFRA (predecessor Departments). As DECC have also used BIS on an outsourced basis for all recruitment since its inception, similarly no data are available for this period. The data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities: Costs

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) heat, (iii) water and sewerage services and (iv) disposal of waste on the latest date for which figures are available; what proportion of such (A) electricity and (B) heat was from renewable sources; what the weight was of such waste; what proportion of such waste was recycled; at what cost such waste was recycled; and what area of office floor space (1) his Department and (2) its agencies own or lease. [290457]

Joan Ruddock: Since its inception, DECC has made use of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (formerly BERR) and DEFRA's central facilities management systems. As a consequence the information you have requested is not held centrally by the Department.

For the latest available figures from BIS and DEFRA I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 1156W. This response includes Whitehall Place, which is now occupied by DECC, but covers 2007-08 which is prior to the formation of DECC. No later information is currently available.

We do however have information on one of our buildings, Atholl House in Aberdeen, which is based on a DECC occupancy of 30 per cent (1,567 square metres) covering the period 1 April 09 to 31 August 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, on Dartford Creek cable bridge, whether his Department received a letter dated 3 August 2009 from the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford on the subject. [293598]

Mr. Kidney: I can confirm that the hon. Member's letter dated 3 August 2009 was received by the Department. I understand that my noble Friend the Minister of State responded in September 2009.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to provide a substantive reply to question 290928 tabled on 9 September 2009 on the power cut at Dartford Creek on 20 July 2009. [293214]

Mr. Kidney: The hon. Member for Bexley and Crayford was given an incorrect answer to his question on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 486W. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made today correcting this answer.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will review the criteria for educational maintenance allowance (EMA) with a view to granting greater discretion in allowing reassessment of eligibility for EMA in circumstances where a household's income changes substantially within a financial year. [292376]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have no current plans to change the criteria for EMA eligibility. For most young people, eligibility for education maintenance allowance (EMA) is subject to an assessment of their household income based on the financial year prior to the academic year in which they start their course. A successful assessment provides a young person with a guaranteed entitlement of up to three years of EMA on the same rate regardless of whether their income increases. If there is a drop in income from one year to the next then a young person may apply to be reassessed for the subsequent academic year. They could be assessed as eligible for EMA where they were not previously, or an increased rate of it. They would receive the EMA guarantee based on the rate awarded following the most recent assessment.

There are a limited number of exceptional circumstances in which a young person may apply to be reassessed for EMA during the academic year.

Those circumstances are:

(i) someone whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility has died;

(ii) a person whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility has experienced a reduction in income due to their own disability, or the disability of any other person for whom he or she has responsibility as primary carer (disability means as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995);

(iii) Since the assessment of income was made, the young person has become estranged from their parents, guardians or someone else whose income was taken into account in determining financial eligibility;

(iv) The young person has become a parent with responsibility for their own child.

The financial needs of young people can be affected by a range of circumstances, including reductions in household income due to redundancy, or reduced working hours. Other mechanisms exist to help with the costs of supporting young people aged 16 to 19 in learning. Child benefit provides support for parents regardless of income, and tax credits are designed to tailor support to current circumstances and to be responsive to changing needs.

In addition to the support provided to families, discretionary learner support funds are made available via the Learning and Skills Council to colleges and local authorities. This funding is provided to enable schools and colleges, using their discretion, to help individual learners who may otherwise experience financial hardship or barriers to continuing in learning.

This year we have strengthened the guidance to providers to emphasise that these funds must be targeted to young people who have most need of them, including those who may face financial hardship following in year changes to their household income.

We will continue to look at additional help via discretionary learner support funds and provide rapid and appropriate responses to changes in employment.

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the cost of extending education maintenance allowance to all school leavers entering further education; and if he will make a statement. [293541]

Mr. Iain Wright: EMA was introduced as an incentive to encourage more young people from lower income households to stay on in post compulsory learning, and to address the issue that the UK had one of the lowest post-16 participation rates in OECD countries. The scheme was piloted from 1999 and rolled out nationally, to consecutive cohorts of learners in full-time education, from September 2004. It was extended to trainees in unwaged training provision in 2006.

We have previously estimated that, to have made the lowest level of EMA (the £10 per week payment) available to all learners not already receiving it would have increased expenditure by around £300 million in the 2007/08 academic year. We have not estimated the cost for 2009/10 and do not plan to do so. We believe that, to be effective, state support needs to be targeted where there is most need.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the average annual cost to schools of delivering *(a)* Key Stage 1 and 2 national tests, *(b)* GCSEs and *(c)* A-levels and AS-levels; and if he will make a statement. [293411]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Curriculum tests for Key Stage 1 and 2 are made freely available to schools.

For GCSEs, A-Levels and AS-Levels the Department began collecting information in 2002-03 in sufficient detail to answer this question. No comparable data is available for previous years. The information in the table below covers the combined costs of all relevant examination entry fees, including GCSEs, A/AS levels and GNVQs, and any accreditation costs related to pupils. We do not collect separate data on each type of qualification.

Examination Fees

	(E21)[1](£)[2]
2002-03	155,611,000
2003-04	173,843,000
2004-05	198,227,000
2005-06	220,056,000
2006-07	240,861,000
2007-08[3]	265,305,000

[1]. Includes expenditure by local authority maintained schools in England on the costs of examination entry fees, and costs of accreditation related to pupils (the payments centres make to awarding bodies to register with them to take their qualification). This includes GCSEs, A/AS levels and GNVQs; it excludes the cost of exam resources like test papers, or administration costs in schools.
[2]. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.
[3]. 2007-08 data remains provisional and subject to change.
Source:
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=58
(Budget Data Archive)

European Schools

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to encourage the development and modernisation of the network of European schools in respect of their *(a)* governance, *(b)* finance and *(c)* pedagogy, with reference both to (i) actions within the UK and (ii) by seeking international agreement. [294038]

Mr. Iain Wright: At international level the UK actively engages in discussions at the European Schools Board of Governors to develop and modernise the system. Steps currently being taken include:

(a) giving the 14 European Schools greater autonomy and control of their budgets;

(b) establishing a method to achieve a fairer distribution among member states of the cost of seconding teachers; and

(c) an evaluation of the European Baccalaureate.

Within the UK, work is ongoing with interested parties to explore the possibility of the European School of Culham becoming an Academy and moving into the English national system.

Outreach Workers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many outreach workers are expected to be employed through the £79 million expenditure for outreach workers up to 2011 announced by his Department; [294111]

(2) how many outreach workers were employed in Sure Start Children's Centres in each quarter for which information is available; and what qualifications such workers are required to have. [294112]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not collect information on how many outreach workers have been, or are expected to be, employed by 2011 in Sure Start children's centres. Staffing levels in children's centres are a matter for local management by local authorities and their partner agencies. The Government's "Sure Start Children's Centres: Phase 3 Planning and Delivery" document suggests that in the most disadvantaged areas there should be at least three outreach workers per children's centre. In less disadvantaged areas, local authorities will decide on the best approach based on their assessment of local needs.

The additional funding which the Government have made available each year since 2008 means that local authorities can increase the number of outreach workers in centres serving the most disadvantaged communities by two, in addition to the funding for one outreach worker per children's centre that had already been included in local authorities' Sure Start early years and child care grant. Funding for outreach is not a separate sum of money allocated to local authorities—they decide how to allocate funding to individual children's centres in their area to meet the needs in each community.

The qualifications required for practitioners engaged in outreach in Sure Start children's centres will depend on the different job roles and purposes developed in each centre, which will be in response to local need. Relevant qualifications include those from child care, family support, social care, counselling, teaching and community work. The Sure Start children's centres practice guidance makes clear the expectation that children's centres should be working towards all staff being trained to at least NVQ level 2.

Pre-school Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the estimated cost is of extending the free early education entitlement to 250,000 extra two year olds; and from which budget the funding will be provided. [294109]

Dawn Primarolo: The extension of the free early education entitlement to 250,000 extra two-year-olds is being fully funded through savings from phasing out tax relief on child care vouchers at no extra cost to the taxpayer. More details will be set out in the pre-Budget report.

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding he expects to allocate to the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [293397]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's budget for 2009-10, which includes funding for Ofqual, is £188 million.

There has been no decision on funding for 2010-11.

Schools: Transport

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has contributed to the Travelling to School Initiative in rural areas in each year since the initiative began. [294055]

Dawn Primarolo: Funding for the Travelling to School Initiative is allocated on a local authority wide rather than an area basis. Consequently we are unable to provide the data requested.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Icelandic government on its plans to reimburse the UK for expenditure incurred as a result of the collapse of Icelandic banks. [294040]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Child Trust Fund: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley had received child trust fund payments on the latest date for which figures are available. [293131]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest statistics on child trust fund accounts, to be published in the near future, show that 5,587 children born before 6 April 2008 in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and 15,480 children born before 6 April 2008 in the London borough of Bexley have a child trust fund account.

Previous years' statistics were published on 6 November 2008 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

Departmental Official Cars

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291507]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Spending by the Treasury on car hire in the last five years is set out in the following table. In 2007 the Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce corporate services merged to create the Treasury

Group Shared Services, which works across two sites (one in London and one in Norwich) The programme realised savings of £1.9 million, as reported in table 4a of the addendum to the Autumn Performance Report 2008, available from:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/apr2008_addendum120509.pdf

	Amount (£000)
2008-09	7
2007-08	7
2006-07	6
2005-06	3
2004-05	3

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for civil servants in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293094]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the number and class of tickets purchased is not normally held, because the Treasury's accounting system records the costs of travel but not the number or type of tickets bought. However, the Treasury's travel management company provided information on the number and type of tickets purchased through them covering travel by all members of the Department, including Ministers.

The combined spending of HM Treasury and the Debt Management Office on UK and overseas first class rail travel was £546,000 in 2006-07, £447,000 in 2007-08 and £379,000 in 2008-09. Tickets bought but subsequently refunded are excluded and some tickets are bought directly by the traveller, so this information is not a complete record of all tickets purchased.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Civil service Management Code' and the 'Ministerial Code'.

Financial Services Authority's Retail Distribution

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of independent financial advisers who will be required to requalify as a result of implementation of the proposals in the Financial Services Authority's Retail Distribution Review. [293113]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Retail Distribution Review is a matter for the FSA, as the independent regulator. The FSA's current estimate is that less than half of Independent Financial Advisers will need to gain a new qualification. However, this estimate is made difficult because there is currently no register of the relevant information, the qualification requirements have not been finalised and Independent Financial Advisers gain new qualifications continually.

Members: Correspondence

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason letters sent from his Department in 2009 to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak from *(a)* the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, dated 12 March (ref. A/852/08), 2 June (ref. 1/70557/09) and 17 August (ref. 3/10608/09), *(b)* the Financial Services Secretary, dated 17 June (ref. 5/3755/2008) and 25 July (ref. 5/04757/2009) and *(c)* the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, dated 15 June (ref. 4/33435/2009) and 4 August (ref. 3/10485/2009) were printed on one side of each sheet of paper only. [293872]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 252W. The Treasury continues to work towards further increasing the use of double sided printing.

Royal Mail

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 23-28, on sale of Government assets, what consideration he gave to including all or part of Royal Mail in the portfolio of assets which are proposed to be sold. [293442]

Mr. Byrne: Royal Mail was not specifically mentioned in the portfolio of assets announced on 12 October because it and the postal market have already been subject to a wide ranging review led by Richard Hooper CBE which reported less than a year ago.

The proposed sale of a minority stake in Royal Mail is part of a wider package of measures to secure its future and to ensure that the universal postal service is maintained. Under this package Royal Mail would remain in public ownership.

Tax Allowances

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated saving to the public purse is from removing the employer-supported childcare tax and national insurance exemptions. [294110]

Mr. Timms: Further details of the changes to income tax and NICs exemptions for Employer Supported Childcare (ESC) will be published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report.

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to businesses of submitting tax returns online in *(a)* ASCII and *(b)* XBRL formats. [293158]

Mr. Timms: No estimate of the cost to business of submitting tax returns online using ASCII has been made.

In April 2009 HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) published an updated impact assessment about online filing services, including the use of XBRL enabled software. The impact assessment is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/carter-ia-final1.pdf

At that stage, the work on XBRL was largely qualitative rather then quantitative However there have been rapid developments in the XBRL market over the last six months. HMRC will publish an updated impact assessment reflecting this shortly.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* requirements and *(b)* guidance apply to the promotion of tax avoidance schemes by banks in receipt of assistance under the (i) Asset Protection Scheme and (ii) Credit Guarantee Scheme. [293192]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We cannot comment on the affairs of individual taxpayers due to taxpayer confidentiality. We expect all banks to comply fully with their tax obligations and although avoidance is not illegal we vigorously challenge it, through the courts if necessary, including where the bank is partly owned by the Government.

The Government and HM Revenue and Customs have always moved quickly and effectively to tackle tax avoidance in all its forms. The 2009 Budget announced further measures to tackle avoidance including disclosure regime enhancement, swift action to close down aggressive tax avoidance schemes, publicity for avoidance schemes which are considered ineffective, and new principle-based approaches to avoidance legislation. In June HM Revenue and Customs published a consultation document on a voluntary code of practice on taxation for the banking sector. The code seeks to ensure that banks comply with not just the letter, but also the spirit of the law.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what terms and conditions apply to the agreements made by the Government for amnesties for British taxpayers with accounts in *(a)* Liechtenstein and *(b)* British overseas territories; what the reasons are for such terms and conditions in each case; and if he will make a statement. [293193]

Mr. Timms: Two separate arrangements—the New Disclosure Opportunity (NDO) and Liechtenstein Disclosure Facility (LDF)-were launched on 1 September 2009.

Both provide taxpayers with an incentive to disclose voluntarily income, gains and assets hidden offshore and pay back taxes together with interest and penalties. The NDO is the last opportunity for people to come forward voluntarily and receive favourable penalties. If they do not, they will be leaving themselves open to investigation and potential criminal prosecution after 30 November 2009 when the notification window closes.

Details of the terms and conditions of both of these arrangements are available on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/disclosure/liechtenstein-disclosure.htm

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/offshoreaccounts/feature-terms.htm

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what modelling his Department has undertaken on the likely effects the abolition of furnished holiday lettings tax relief will have on *(a)* tourism, *(b)* rural areas and *(c)* regional economies. [293437]

Mr. Timms: The Government announced the withdrawal of the furnished holiday lettings scheme from 2010 at the 2009 Budget in order to provide advance notice of the change, and allow those affected time to plan.

Estimates of the revenue impact of this change were published at Budget 2009. An impact assessment will be published at the 2009 pre-Budget report alongside draft legislation.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what legal advice his Department took in advance of the decision to abolish furnished holiday lettings tax relief. [293438]

Mr. Timms: As was the case with the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of its legal advice.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation his Department undertook with stakeholders in advance of the decision to abolish furnished holiday lettings tax relief. [293439]

Mr. Timms: The decision to repeal the Furnished Holiday Lettings relief from April 2010 was taken because the relief may not be compliant with EU law. It was therefore not appropriate to consult on whether a change should be made.

The repeal was announced in the Budget 2009 in order to provide advance notice of the change, and allow those affected time to plan.

Although a formal consultation is not planned, the Government do intend to publish draft legislation at the 2009 pre-Budget report, and will be happy to receive comments at that time.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of businesses which will be affected by the abolition of furnished holiday lettings tax relief. [293440]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) administrative systems do not record the number of companies with income from furnished holiday lettings. Based on information held by Companies House, we estimate that fewer than 500 companies have furnished holiday lettings as their main source of income. There may also be a number of companies who have a small amount of furnished holiday lettings income to supplement their main source of income.

More broadly, in 2007-08, the last full year for which information is available, approximately 60,000 individuals declared income from furnished holiday lettings to HMRC.

An impact assessment will be published at the pre-Budget report 2009 alongside draft legislation.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what aerial photography the Valuation Office Agency has obtained for its new Geographical Information System; and whether this information was obtained *(a)* through the Pan-Government Agreement, *(b)* directly from Ordnance Survey or *(c)* by another means. [292751]

Ian Pearson: As noted in the response given by the former Financial Secretary on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1688W, the use of aerial photography is not within the scope of the Agency's Geographical Information System.

Working Tax Credit

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many working tax credit recipients were receiving the 50-plus element on 1 January *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [293189]

Mr. Timms: The estimated number of households receiving working tax credit and benefiting from the 50-plus element on 1 January 2008 was 14,600.

The equivalent figure for 1 January 2009 was 16,600 households.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the Equality and Human Rights Commission's *(a)* budget and *(b)* estimated expenditure on interim staff is for 2009-10. [294050]

Maria Eagle: Costs and projected spend on interim staff for 2009-10 is as follows:

		£000
	Budget	*Actual*
2009-10	—	[1]6,592

[1] Provisional

There was no budget set for agency or interim staff costs. These costs were managed within the overall budget for staffing.

The Commission are currently undertaking a mid-year review of all budgets so the 2009-10 budget is subject to change.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the Equality and Human Rights Commission's budget for interim staff was in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [294051]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission came into existence in October 2007. Interim staff costs from October 2007 are as follows:

	Actual (£000)
October 2007 to March 2008	1,818
April 2008 to March 2009	6,247

There was no budget set for agency or interim staff costs. These costs were managed within the overall budget for staffing.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in each grade employed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission received no pay rise in each of the last two years. [294053]

Maria Eagle: The breakdown of employees of the Equality and Human Rights Commission by grade who have received no pay rise during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as follows:

Level	*Total*	*Percentage of total permanent employees*
Director and above	18	100.0
L1	8	32.0
L2	9	9.8
L3	31	21.7
L4	32	31.7
L5	18	28.1
Legacy grades	8	50.0
Total	124	26.2

CABINET OFFICE

Charity Commission

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what declaration of political activity has been made by each *(a)* Commissioner and *(b)* Executive Director of the Charity Commission; [292597]

(2) what the total annual monetary remuneration of each commissioner of the Charity Commission is, including *(a)* expenses and *(b)* monies paid to compensate for tax liability. [292598]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated October 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Questions that ask for a list of declarations of political activities made (292597) and the total annual monetary remuneration of each Board member including expenses and any monies paid to compensate for tax liability (292598).

Appointments to the Commission's non-executive Board (as 'Members of the Commission') only came under the formal regulation of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) in February this year, so a declaration of political activity has not yet been required from the majority of our Board members. The Chair, however, was re-appointed in July under OCPA's formal regulation, so a declaration of political activity was made then. That declaration was that the Chair is inactive politically. The senior Executive team - me and the four Executive Directors, are all Senior Civil Servants and thus abide by the Civil Service Management Code and contractual commitments to impartiality; all of us are politically inactive.

We have a comprehensive biographical section and Register of Interests available publicly on our website, respectively at http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/commissioners.asp and http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/decint.asp. These provide further details of the Commission's Board members' and senior executives' backgrounds.

Details of the remuneration of Members of the Commission are shown in our 2008/09 Resource Accounts, available in the House Library and on our website at http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Library/spr/pdfs/reac0809.pdf. For ease, I attach at Annex A the relevant table (extended slightly to reflect the compensation for tax liability and the content of this letter) from these accounts. Members of the Commission are remunerated at a rate of £350 a day. The terms of their appointments are for 4-6 days a month for the two legally-qualified Members and 2-3 days a month for the others. The Chair's appointment is for a minimum of three-days-a-week.

Expenses for 2008/09 are also published on our website at http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/tcc/expenses.asp and I attach this table at Annex B. We will be publishing, in the next few weeks, the first six months' of expenses claimed / paid in 2009/10.

I hope this is helpful and please do let me know if you wish to discuss or need anything further.

Annex A: 2008-09 remuneration (audited)

	2008-09 remuneration (£000)
Dame S. Leather DBE[1] (Chair)	80-85
J. Williams[1] (Member)	20-25
T. Woodcraft[1] (Member)	5-10
Simon Jones[2] (Member)	15-20
Sharmila Nebhrajani[2] (Member)	5-10
Dr. Andrew Purkis OBE[2] (Member)	10-15
Theo Sowa[2] (Member)	10-15
Simon Wethered[2] (Legally-qualified Member)	20-25
John Wood[2] (Legally-qualified) Member)	15-20

[1] Indicates part-time non-Executive appointed on a three-year fixed term contract, with the option of extension or reappointment. J. Williams and T. Woodcraft transferred to the new contracts for members on 4 January 2008 and 1 May 2008 respectively, and since transfer, receive the same remuneration as those members appointed since 1 July 2007.

[2] Members appointed since July 2007 receive a daily fee of £350. No pension contributions are paid.

Note:

In addition to the above, Dame Suzi Leather in accordance with her contract of employment received additional payments amounting to £25,403 in respect of reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs arising from her home base being out of London. The Charity Commission meets the resulting tax liability of £22,335 for this contractual commitment.

Annex B: Charity Commission expenses incurred by board members and the senior executive team

In line with its commitment to transparency and openness, the Charity Commission has decided to publish board members', chief executive's and directors' expenses online. This publication of expenses covers the financial year 2008-09 (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009) for each board member and director by significant expense class—see following table.

Expenses will be published hereafter quarterly, i.e. covering the previous three months. These expenses will be scrutinised by the Charity Commission's Audit Committee every six months.

	Subsistence	*Mileage*	*Accommodation*	*Rail*	*Flights*	*Taxis*	*Bus/ Coach*	*Parking*	*Postage*	*Food*	*Total*
Board members											
Dame S. Leather (Chair)	125.03	102.72	330.23	1,110.06	—	4,697.22	—	—	—	—	6,365.26
J. Williams	—	—	—	286.43	—	30.00	—	—	—	—	316.43
T. Woodcraft	—	—	—	66.43	—	—	—	—	1.08	—	67.51
S. Jones	—	24.80	815.69	2,086.30	—	124.50	—	2.00	8.95	223.81	3,286.05
S. Nebhrajani	—	—	—	23.48	—	53.00	—	—	—	—	76.48
A. Purkis	—	—	—	89.91	—	—	—	—	—	—	89.91
T. Sowa	—	—	91.29	280.23	—	9.00	—	—	—	6.35	386.87
S. Wethered	—	—	91.41	267.36	—	58.69	—	—	—	—	417.46
J. Wood	—	—	91.29	149.58	—	32.00	—	—	—	27.41	300.28
Total	125.03	127.52	1,419.91	4,359.78	0.00	5,004.41	0.00	2.00	10.03	257.57	11,306.25
Directors											
A. Hind (CEO)	—	—	864.12	2,248.77	63.43	681.89	9.00	—	—	139.48	4,006.69
R. Chapman	86.88	—	407.86	2,473.70	491.78	834.50	—	—	—	—	4,294.72
K. Dibble	232.03	28.80	658.58	1,437.22	—	443.77	—	—	—	—	2,800.40
N. Allaway	—	140.80	451.40	3,687.00	114.00	6.60	1.50	14.50	—	—	4,415.80
D. Locke	1,146.02	—	3,001.24	4,705.30	—	444.90	—	—	—	15.89	9,313.35
Total	1,464.93	169.60	5,383.20	14,551.99	669.21	2,411.66	10.50	14.50	—	155.37	24,830.96
Grand total	1,589.96	297.12	6,803.11	18,911.77	669.21	7,416.07	10.50	16.50	10.03	412.94	36,137.21

Notes:

1. The reported expenses include the cost of all travel, accommodation and other support services for board members, the chief executive and directors. The variation in travel and accommodation expenses between board members reflects their respective time commitments and duties, the range of activities they undertake, the location of their homes and other individual factors. All board members, directors and the chief executive are required to travel around the UK to some extent.
2. The Commission has four offices in England and Wales: London, Liverpool, Newport (Gwent) and Taunton. With the probable exception of the chair and chief executive, the majority of board members' and directors' travel is between these offices.
3. Rail travel and accommodation are mainly booked through central agencies rather than by individuals who then claim the expense back. The costs shown, therefore, are those incurred by individuals rather than 'expenses claimed'.
4. 'Subsistence' covers the allowances payable for significant time out of the office and for overnight stays, at rates agreed with HMRC.
5. Where the board and directors attend key events that are organised centrally and through a 'block booking' by the Commission, e.g. where open board meetings are held away from the London office, the accommodation and food costs are not included as, retrospectively, this would involve disproportionate resource and expense. Events of this type held in 2008-09 were open board meetings in Liverpool and Swansea, the Charity Commission's Annual Public Meeting in London and the board's away day in Hertfordshire. The cost of these would add around £300 in total to each individual's accommodation/food costs.

Former Ministers

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which former Ministers have been given leave to take up appointments in the private sector within two years of leaving ministerial office; and which appointment each was given leave to accept. [290644]

Tessa Jowell: The Ministerial Code, published in July 2007, states that on leaving office, Ministers must seek advice from the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments about any appointments or employment they wish to take up within two years of leaving office, apart from unpaid appointments in non-commercial organisations.

Details of advice given by the Committee on appointments taken up by former Ministers are outlined in the Committee's annual reports which are available in the Libraries of the House or on its website at:

www.acoba.gov.uk

Households: Poverty

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her latest estimate is of the number of *(a)* households and *(b)* households in poverty without a landline telephone. [294041]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unemployment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people resident in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance on the latest date for which figures are available. [293179]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people resident in (a) Vale of York constituency and (b) England were in receipt of jobseekers allowance on the latest date for which figures are available. (293179)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. In September 2009 the number of persons claiming JSA who were resident in the Vale of York was 1,185. The number of persons claiming JSA who were resident in England was 1,329,140.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects to answer Question 281652, on Civil Service nationality, tabled on 17 June 2009. [293864]

Tessa Jowell: Question 281652 was answered on 9 October 2009. It appears in the *Official Report*, dated 12 October 2009, columns 397-99W.

Young People: Jobseeker's Allowance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of people aged between 16 and 24 years in Montgomeryshire was claiming jobseeker's allowance on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [294186]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of people aged between 16 and 24 in Montgomeryshire was claiming job seeker's allowance on the latest date for which figures are available. (294186)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. In September 2009 the proportion of 16 to 24 year olds resident in the Montgomeryshire parliamentary constituency claiming Jobseeker's Allowance was 7.7 per cent.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Energy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the re-cast Article 4 of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will require minimum energy performance standards for existing *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic buildings which are not otherwise laid out in the specified exemptions. [292633]

John Healey: Article 4 of the re-cast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive will not require any new obligations in respect of energy performance standards for existing *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic buildings above those currently laid out in the Energy Performance of Building Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/991).

Campaign for More and Better Homes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1662W, on LLM Communications, which Minister in his Department approved the payments to the Campaign for More and Better Homes. [293229]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2011W.

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the responsibilities and remit are of *(a)* the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency's Design and Sustainable Development Team, *(c)* the Homes and Communities Agency's Advisory Team for Large Applications, *(d)* the Homes and Communities Agency's National Consultancy Unit and *(e)* the Homes and Communities Agency's Urban Design Compendium. [292889]

John Healey: The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) both have an interest in ensuring high standards in the built environment, and have distinct but complementary roles.

(a) CABE is the Government's statutory advisor on architecture, urban design and public space. It promotes education and high standards in architecture, the understanding and appreciation of it and the design, management and maintenance of the built environment. Its statutory functions are set out in Part 8 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2005/ukpga_20050016_en_10

The HCA is the national housing and regeneration agency with a delivery role to create opportunity for people to live in high quality, sustainable places. It provides funding for affordable housing, and brings land back into productive use. It also aims to improve quality of life by raising standards for the physical and social environment and therefore works in a number of different ways to achieve this.

(b) The HCA's Design and Sustainable Development Team is responsible for setting standards in respect of all major HCA projects and programmes; developing and trialling new approaches, and developing and demonstrating best practice through exemplar developments including on the use of brownfield land.

(c) The Advisory Team for Large Applications provides local planning authorities with a specialist advisory service across the country. This team works with local authorities and the private sector to help unblock and speed up large and complex planning applications. See

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/hca_expertise

(d) The HCA's National Consultancy Unit (now the Land and Development Consultancy Unit) provides HCA regional teams and partners with support and advice on their projects in regeneration and growth areas; manages the HCA's property and technical frameworks and those of its delivery partner panels; develops and disseminates specialist best practice in development, placemaking and community involvement.

(e) The HCA's Urban Design Compendium is a document that gives urban designers worldwide guidance on the principles of urban design and highlights how these can be applied in practice. See the following for more details:

www.urbandesigncompendium.co.uk

Community Infrastructure Levy

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of the Community Infrastructure Levy on the burden of regulation on house builders. [289501]

John Healey: The Government have made an assessment of the impact of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) upon landowners and developers including house builders, in preparing the impact assessments on CIL, which have accompanied the different legislative stages of the passage of the Planning Act 2008 and the ongoing development of CIL regulations.

The most recent assessment was published on 30 July to accompany the draft CIL regulations and can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/infrastructurelevypartial

Conservatories: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2209W, on conservatories, how many conservatories in England are recorded on the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model. [293032]

Barbara Follett: The automated valuation model is not used to record the presence of a conservatory. Details, by Billing Authority, of the number of properties in the Valuation Office Agency's property attribute database recorded with each of the dwellinghouse codes (including codes for different types of conservatories) will be placed in the Library of the House.

Consolidated PR

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Audit Commission has made to Consolidated PR in the last three years. [292723]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 19 October 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me for reply. You asked a similar question in May 2009 (pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 12 March 2009, Official Report, column 752W, on publicity, what projects were undertaken by each of the public relations companies hired by the Audit Commission; and for what reason the Commission did not use its own staff in each case).

We advised that the Audit Commission contracted with Consolidated Communications, a communications and public relations company, in 2006 and 2007 during a period of substantial reorganisation of our publishing and media relations. Consolidated offered advice and support, replacing functions that, temporarily, were not available in house. For this service, the Audit Commission paid a total of £137,700.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Conveyancing: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 230W, on conveyancing: fees and charges, if he will publish the data which his Department has collected on CON29 search fees charged by local authorities. [292989]

John Healey: This information is already in the public domain as individual local authorities publish details of the fees they charge for a CON29 search.

Council Tax: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will undertake a privacy impact assessment of the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model and associated council tax databases in light of the amounts of digital property data being stored by that Agency. [292630]

Barbara Follett: No. The Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model was developed before privacy impact assessment became mandatory and the project posed no risk to the privacy of an individual.

Council Tax: Energy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received from the Energy Saving Trust on *(a)* levels of council tax on homes with an energy efficiency rating of F or G and *(b)* the sale and rent of homes with an energy efficiency rating of F or G. [292705]

John Healey: EST have made representations on a number of policy areas including responses to the Home Energy Savings Strategy (HESS) joint DECC/CLG consultation, the Rugg review and the Beyond Decent Homes inquiry.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 189, on council tax: valuation, how many proposals were submitted to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) in each of those four years requesting a band change; and how many and what proportion were *(a)* accepted, *(b)* rejected by the VOA and not subject to appeal, *(c)* rejected by the VOA, considered by the Valuation Tribunal Service and not successfully appealed against and *(d)* rejected by the VOA, considered by the Valuation Tribunal Service and successfully appealed against. [293343]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is shown as follows:

	(a)	*(b)*	*(c)*	*(d)*	*Total settled*
2005-06	14,455	11,397	840	1,262	27,954
2006-07	13,296	12,244	999	793	27,332
2007-08	15,132	10,624	5,477	1,244	32,477
2008-09	9,856	17,185	4,457	974	32,472

Councillors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of local authority councillors who simultaneously hold posts in both tiers of local government in areas where a two-tier system operates. [292997]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My Department has made no such estimate.

The LGA/IDeA 2008 National Census of Local Authority Councillors in England found that 41.3 per cent. of representatives of shire counties were members of another local authority.

Derelict Land

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of the Homes and Communities Agency is on allowing brownfield land it owns or controls to be used for *(a)* commercial or industrial and *(b)* mixed used development. [292584]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency is working to release the potential of some of the country's most challenging brownfield sites by levering in private investment and supporting local authorities to develop these sites in a sustainable way. The Government's target is that 60 per cent. of all new housing should be on brownfield land, and all development on previously developed land should be designed to deliver what is needed locally and be in line with local planning requirements. This includes commercial/industrial and mixed used developments, public space and leisure uses, as well as housing.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent guidance produced by the Audit Commission for local authorities on the frequency of household waste collections; [292729]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance produced by the Audit Commission for local authorities on the frequency of household waste collections. [293364]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Audit Commission does not issue guidance to local authorities on the frequency of local waste collections.

Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which locations proposed eco-town developments are being considered. [292585]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 42WS.

Eco-Towns: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much central government funding will be allocated to support specific developments in the eco-town programme; and over what periods. [293362]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 42WS. This sets out the funding that we will be making available over the next two years as part of the eco-towns programme, and the continuing Government support that will be available.

Eco-Towns: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much expenditure his Department has incurred on *(a)* exhibitions and *(b)* road shows to promote eco-towns. [292871]

John Healey: The eco-towns programme undertook a consultation road show which included a series of exhibitions as part of these events. For the cost of these events I refer the hon. Member to the information on the Department's website published at the time of the Department's 2008-09 Annual Report at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1298507.pdf

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty dwelling management orders each local authority has issued since their inception. [292810]

Mr. Ian Austin: To date, 27 interim empty dwelling management orders (EDMOs) have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) since the legislation came into effect in April 2006. However, local authorities claim that in many cases the threat of an EDMO has been sufficient to make owners take action to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

We are confident that the legislation is beginning to work well. We always intended that the legislation should be used only as a last resort where other measures have proved unsuccessful. We want to encourage voluntary re-occupation of empty homes but this can only work well where there is realistic compulsion to back them up. EDMOs provide this compulsion and should therefore be a key component of a comprehensive empty property strategy.

Local authority	*Number of interim EDMOs authorised*
Bolton Borough Council	1
Carlisle District Council	2
London Borough of Bromley	1
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	1
London Borough of Hounslow	1
London Borough of Lewisham	5
New Forest District Council	1
Norwich City Council	6
Peterborough City Council	2
South Norfolk District Council	1
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	2
South Oxfordshire District Council	1
South Tyneside Borough Council	1
Swale Borough Council	1
Wychavon District Council	1
Total	27

Energy Performance Certificates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to increase access by *(a)* public sector bodies, *(b)* delivery bodies and *(c)* industry groups to the Energy Performance Certificate database; and whether a privacy impact assessment was prepared in relation to extending access to the Energy Saving Trust. [292548]

John Healey: We will consult on a data sharing strategy later this year. It will set out our proposals for increased access by a range of organisations, including public sector bodies, delivery partners and others, to the data collected through energy performance certificates (EPC) and display energy certificates (DEC).

A small-scale privacy impact statement was completed by CLG in relation to the sharing of EPC data with the Energy Savings Trust.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedures are used to verify the accuracy of energy performance certificates for existing residential dwellings; and what accreditation schemes are in place. [292742]

John Healey: Accreditation schemes are responsible for conducting quality audits of the energy performance certificates (EPCs) produced by the energy assessors (EAs) they accredit in accordance with CLG requirements as set out in the guidance document which can be viewed online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/319273.pdf

Accreditation schemes that are in place can be viewed online at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/theenvironment/energyperformance/energyassessment/accreditation/

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement between his Department and the Energy Saving Trust on the use of Energy Performance Certificate data. [292743]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the agreement between Communities and Local Government and the Energy Savings Trust governing the sharing of EPC data available in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department is the lead Government department for policy formulation on commercial *(a)* energy performance certificates and *(b)* display energy certificates. [292811]

John Healey: The Department is the lead department for policy formulation on all *(a)* energy performance certificates and *(b)* display energy certificates.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 41 of his Department's publication on the Recast of the energy performance of buildings directive, by what mechanism his Department verifies that at least two per cent. of all energy performance certificates are checked and verified for accuracy by the accreditation bodies. [292840]

John Healey: Accreditation schemes are responsible for conducting quality audits of the energy performance certificates (EPCs) produced, and reporting the outcome to CLG in their annual reports. In addition to their reporting requirements, accreditation schemes have been subject to an external audit to assess their compliance with the terms of their approval. Annual reports can be viewed online at the following address:

https://www.ndepcregister.com/schemeAnnualReports.html

English Partnerships: Homes and Communities Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial adjustments were made to the land assets of English Partnerships when they were transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency. [292644]

John Healey: Since its launch on 1 December, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has operated a single accounting policy, which harmonised the policies of its various predecessor bodies, namely: English Partnerships (EP consisting of the Commission for New Towns (CNT) and the Urban Regeneration Agency (URA)), the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities.

Since its creation, the HCA carries development assets at market value. Before the creation of HCA, development assets were carried at the lower of cost (at time of purchase/transfer) and estimated market value in CNT, and at the lower of current replacement cost and net realisable value in URA. As a result of this, the following accounting policy valuation adjustments were made at the point of transfer of these assets from EP to the HCA, set out in the following table.

Land development assets (so excluding other assets such as debtors)

(£ million)

	English Partnerships	*Commission for New Towns*	*Urban Regeneration Agency*
Net assets at time of merger	703	222	481
Accounting policy adjustments	394	384	10
Restated net assets at time of merger	1097	606	491

Financial Dynamics

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 304W, on departmental procurement, what the purpose was of the payments made to Financial Dynamics; and what subsequent payments have been made to the company. [292991]

Barbara Follett: The payments made to Financial Dynamics in the financial year 2007-08 were for advertising and publicity services. A subsequent payment of £5,816 was made in September 2008 for conference set-up costs.

Floods and Water Bill

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities will receive additional funding to pay for the new responsibilities set out in the Floods and Water Bill if that Bill is enacted. [293361]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have undertaken to ensure that all net new burdens on local government arising from the implementation of the draft Flood and Water Management Bill are fully funded.

Government Office for London

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much programme expenditure was paid via the Government Office for London in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and what the administrative cost of the Government Office for London was during that period. [292593]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total programme expenditure for the financial year 2008-09 for the Government Office for London was £148,373,713.

The total administrative costs for the financial year 2008-09 for the Government Office for London was £15,871,409.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much programme expenditure was managed by the Government Office for each region in the latest 12 months for which figures are available. [292821]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2781W.

Government Offices for the Regions: Mass Media

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 249-50W, for what reasons media monitoring services were contracted by or on behalf of each Government Office for the Regions which used them in each of the three years; and which companies provided the services used by each such office in each of the three years. [292990]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the past, a number of Government offices have taken media monitoring contracts to ensure we can monitor and respond to issues and concerns of residents in the region, and to help inform our role in working with places—both to challenge and support their delivery for their residents, and to monitor and feedback to Whitehall Departments.

Local means of doing this have varied between in-house and use of contracted services, but over the last two years the Government office network has driven efficiency savings by taking out a consistent contract for each GO.

As of this year, there has been one media monitoring contract with TNS Media Monitoring Services which covers the whole network.

Media monitoring providers for Government offices in the last three years

Government office	*Year*	*Provider*
GO East.	2006-07	Central Office of Information (COI)
	2007-08	TNS Media Monitoring Services
	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[1]
GO North East	2006-07	COI
	2007-08	COI
	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[1]
GO London	2006-09	Meltwater News
GOYH	2006-07	No record kept locally
	2007-08	COI
	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[1]
GOEM	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[1]
GOSW	2006-07	COI
	2007-08	COI
	2008-09	Meltwater News
GONW	2008-09	TNS Media Monitoring Services[1]

[1] In 2008-09 the network contracted media monitoring services on behalf of five Government offices.

Government Offices Regional Coordination Unit

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of the Government Offices Regional Coordination Unit is for 2009-10; how many staff it employs; and what its function is. [292819]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Regional Coordination Unit ceased to exist on 30 April 2009. A new structure, the Government Office Network Centre and Services, came into being on 1 May 2009.

The Government Office Network Centre and Services provides the Secretariat for the Network Governance Committees, the Council of Regional Ministers provides support for Regional Ministers and the Government's work with regional grand and select committees. It also leads the Network strategy and communications arrangements.

The running cost budget for Regional Coordination Unit and Government Office Network Centre and Services for 2009-10 is £5.8 million.

As at 1 October 2009, there are 28.6 full-time equivalent staff working for Government Office Network Centre and Services GONCS. 73.1 full-time equivalent staff have transferred to Department of Communities and Local Government line management.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse has been of *(a)* marketing, *(b)* public relations, *(c)* advertising and *(d)* communications expenditure in relation to home information packs to date. [292632]

John Healey: For details of all communications expenditure on home information packs prior to the financial year 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) on 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1291W, to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy). For details of all communications expenditure on home information packs in 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to the information on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1298507.pdf

published at the time of the Department's 2008-09 Annual Report.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what accreditation schemes for *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* home condition reports have been notified to his Department. [292740]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

(a) There are no accreditation schemes for home information packs.

(b) Home condition reports (HCRs) are produced by Home Inspectors certified by the following Government approved certification schemes:

BRE (Buildings Research Establishment) Training and Accreditation

RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Accreditation and Certification

SAVA (Surveyors and Valuers Accreditation Ltd.) Certification Scheme.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on the home information pack programme since its inception. [292815]

John Healey: I refer to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1313W. Since then an additional £4,543,432 has been spent on Home Information Packs up to the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the home condition reports on the Home Condition Register received subsidy in whole or in part from public initiatives to encourage the take-up of home condition reports. [293109]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1693W.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Homes and Communities Agency has in the regional planning process. [292616]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) deploys £5 billion of public investment in housing and regeneration and should therefore be a key participant in the regional planning process.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what framework agreements for the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenants Services Authority are in the process of establishing. [292620]

John Healey: The framework document for the Homes and Communities Agency is available to view on their website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/financial_ memorandum

The framework document for the Tenant Services Authority is available to view on their website at:

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/upload/pdf/
Framework_document.pdf

The document was also placed (DEP2009-2275) in the Library of the House on 26 August 2009.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Homes and Communities Agency will spend on property and regeneration in each of the next three years; and how much English Partnerships and associated bodies which were incorporated into the Agency spent on such matters, in each of the last three years. [292553]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) planned (gross) expenditure on its property and regeneration programme for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is set out in its corporate plan 2009-11, which has been published on its website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/publications

The figures provided in the plan reflect Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) budgets. Spending plans for 2011-12 fall into the next spending round period and have yet to be determined.

The HCA was formed from the following predecessor bodies: English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. The HCA also took over delivery of a number of this Department's programmes, such as Housing Market Renewal, the Growth Areas and the Thames Gateway, which have links with regeneration and housing. The HCA's current 'property and regeneration' spending programme is the successor to the former EP spending programme alone.

The HCA's published corporate plan provides a DEL spend figure for 2008-09 on 'property and regeneration' for the full 12 month period (on a merger accounting basis). Hence this figure includes within it spend during the first eight months of 2008-09 when the programme was delivered by English Partnerships (EP) prior to the launch of the HCA on 1 December 2008. Final audited spend out-turn for EP on a net DEL basis for 2007-08 and 2006-07 was reported in its published annual accounts available on its website at:

http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/
corporateinformation.htm

in the financial key performance indicators section (page 63 for 2007-08, and page 61 for 2006-07).

Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 813W, on housing, what information his Department holds on the number of newspapers which printed the article by the Minister for Housing and Planning. [292983]

John Healey: An article I wrote appeared in a number of local and regional newspapers. The article was made available to newspapers through The Central Office of Information. CLG does not hold a central record of the total number of newspapers the article appeared in.

Housing Associations: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what records the Homes and Communities Agency holds of levels of remuneration awarded to members of housing association boards. [293005]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) does not hold records of levels of remuneration awarded to members of housing association boards.

Housing: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions his Department has had with the Valuation Office Agency on access by the agency to access property data held on the *(a)* Home Condition Report and *(b)* Energy Performance Certificates registers. [292877]

John Healey: We have no record of any such representation by the Valuation Office Agency.

Housing: Energy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with the housing and property industry on the extent to which energy performance is reflected in the value of a property. [292551]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government is working with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and other stakeholders on a project to explore the extent to which energy performance is reflected in the value of a property and the effect on the market price of homes as a result of the installation of different energy efficiency and renewable heat and energy technologies.

This work is due to report at the end of the year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's most recent estimate is of the level of average annual carbon dioxide emissions for a domestic dwelling from heat loss. [292623]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The latest estimate of average CO_2 emissions for a domestic dwelling due to energy use for heating the rooms is around two tonnes per year. This is based on data published in 2008 by the Buildings Research Establishment.

Household energy consumption and the related emissions can be reduced significantly through the installation of basic, low-cost insulation measures to reduce heat loss through the building fabric. For example, energy use for space heating can be reduced by about 25 per cent. through installation of cavity wall insulation.

Electricity: £10,900.86. The electricity tariff is a 100 per cent. renewable supply.

Gas: £1,338.59

Water: £3,616.58

Disposal of waste: £910.76. 8,217kg of waste was produced in that period, of which, 49.4 per cent. was recycled. The breakdown and record of the cost of the individual waste elements that are sent to landfill, 'energy from waste' or to recycling is not held centrally by DECC and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons local authorities are ineligible for Kickstart Housing Delivery funding. [294127]

John Healey: The aim of the Kickstart programme is to unlock stalled sites in England for the development of high-quality, mixed tenure homes. Local authorities are note eligible to apply for funding from the Kickstart Housing Delivery fund as there is a separate funding pot available to authorities to deliver new social housing on land they already own and that can be developed only by them. Where a local authority has appointed a delivery partner, for example through a disposal or development agreement to bring forward a site for housing development, the delivery partner can apply. The successful projects from round one of the local authority new build programme were announced in September. 49 local authorities, covering every region of the country, will receive a share of £130 million Government funding to build over 2,000 homes.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties were available for sale under the *(a)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct and *(c)* New Build HomeBuy scheme in each of the last three months. [292479]

John Healey: Information on low cost home ownership completions, April to September 2009, will be released by the Homes and Communities Agency later this year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on *(a)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct, *(c)* New Build HomeBuy, *(d)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(e)* OwnHome, *(f)* the First Time Buyers Initiative and *(g)* Social HomeBuy in 2009-10. [292483]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency will publish information on expenditure through the Affordable Housing Programme for 2009-10 after the end of that financial year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* local authorities offer Social Homebuy. [292575]

John Healey: 62 housing associations and 10 local authorities currently offer Social Homebuy.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many completed Social Homebuy transactions there have been since the introduction of the scheme. [292576]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1282-283W; to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 218W; and to the hon. Member on 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 446-47W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the Open Market Homebuy scheme has been closed. [292700]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 326W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on the *(a)* advertising, *(b)* marketing and *(c)* publicising of Open Market Homebuy since the scheme's inception. [292701]

John Healey: The Department has conducted no such activity for the specific promotion of open market homebuy.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been sold via *(a)* Rent to HomeBuy, *(b)* HomeBuy Direct, *(c)* New Build HomeBuy, *(d)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(e)* OwnHome, *(f)* the First Time Buyers Initiative and *(g)* Social HomeBuy in 2009-10 to date. [292299]

John Healey *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* Information on low cost home ownership completions, April to September 2009, will be released by the Homes and Communities Agency later this year.

Housing: Regeneration

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the objectives are of the Home and Community Agency's Single Conversation process. [292615]

John Healey: The purpose and function of the single conversation is clearly outlined on the Homes and Communities website. The relevant page can be accessed at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/single conversation.htm

Housing: Sales

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research his Department has commissioned into *(a)* gazundering and *(b)* gazumping in the last 12 months. [292898]

John Healey: Reliable information on the incidence of gazumping and gazundering was one of the key aims of the research study "Key research on easier home buying and selling, DETR 1998".

Housing: Surveys

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the recent survey by the Tenant Services Authority on attitudes to *(a)* home ownership and *(b)* renting. [292624]

John Healey: The recent results of the Tenant Services Authority's (TSA) survey on attitudes to *(a)* home ownership and *(b)* renting are contained in a document entitled 'Existing Tenants Survey 2: Landlord Services'. This is currently available to view electronically on the TSA website at:

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server/show/nav.14348

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to Cabinet Office guidance on the conduct of the Civil Service during general elections, whether the Infrastructure Planning Commission may submit recommendations to the Secretary of State after the dissolution of Parliament. [293222]

John Healey: Once the IPC is able to receive applications for a particular infrastructure sector, the decision making role arising from recommendations from the IPC will become an ongoing function of the Secretary of State.

Constitutionally, Government continue to carry out its ongoing functions throughout a General Election period. Therefore, the IPC may submit recommendations to the Secretary of State during the period in which Parliament is dissolved.

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to those of its agencies which are subject to section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 in respect of a duty to involve. [292651]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Statutory guidance covering the duty to involve was published by my Department in July 2008, entitled "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities." This guidance is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongsafeprosperous

My Department has also worked with the Community Development Foundation to produce voluntary guidance on what the duty might look like in practice. This document was published by the Community Development Foundation in April 2009. This guidance is available on the Community Development Foundation website at:

http://cdf.likecube.com/web/guest/publication?id=20497

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of his Department's agencies required to introduce a duty to involve under section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have established a mechanism for doing so. [292715]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are no Community and Local Government agencies listed under section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 for the duty to involve.

The Department is using the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, presently before Parliament, to extend the duty to involve so that it applies to a number of additional public authorities. These additional authorities include the Homes and Communities Agency, an agency of my Department.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; and if he will make a statement. [292718]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As part of post legislative scrutiny, Government are required to conduct an impact assessment between three to five years after legislation has come into effect. The Act received Royal Assent on 30 October 2007, so the earliest timeframe for post legislative scrutiny would be 2010.

An initial impact assessment was carried out for the provisions in the Act, and this can be found on the Communities and Local Government website and in the House Library.

Local Government Information Unit

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 246-7W, on the Local Government Information Unit, if he will place in the Library a copy of the completed project report produced by the Local Government Information Unit for his Department. [292992]

Barbara Follett: The LGIU report on the role of councillors was commissioned by the independent Councillors Commission to help inform their report. It was not, nor was ever intended to be, published. Instead it provided the Commissioners with information to enable them to fully consider relevant issues relating to the councillor role and to publish their final report 'Representing the Future' in December 2007.

Local Government: Consultants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on the hiring of public affairs consultants; and whether the communications activities of such consultants are covered by the Code of Conduct on Local Authority Publicity. [292555]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The code of recommended practice on local authority publicity, to which councils must have regard, makes provision on the content and style for all publicity funded by the council and about how a council should approach its publicity, including the extent to which expert advice is needed for publicity.

Local Government: Freedom of Information

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local partnerships will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [292642]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are voluntary, non-statutory partnerships made up of members from the public, private and third sectors and centred on a local authority area. LSPs are not listed as a public authority in the FoI Act. However, as they are partnerships, local authority members and possibly other public sector members will be public authorities for the purposes of the FoI Act. Accordingly while an FoI request cannot be made to the LSP, it may be possible to make a FoI request for information on an LSP to public sector members of the LSP.

Local Government: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the terms of reference are for the Audit Commission's review of council newspaper advertising; what methodology the Commission is using to conduct the review; and under what timetable he expects the review to take place. [293166]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 19 October 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me for reply.

The Audit Commission is currently considering whether to undertake research on the value for money achieved by council spending on communicating with the public; this could include expenditure on, and income from, information sheets and newsletters.

The Commission is consulting with stakeholders and considering whether a national study would be warranted and feasible. No decision has yet been made about the scope, methodology or timetable of any work.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Audit Commission has taken to inquire into the practice of local authorities taking paid advertising to support information sheets. [294104]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 19 October 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me for reply.

The Audit Commission is currently considering whether to undertake research on the value for money achieved by council spending on communicating with the public; this could include expenditure on, and income from, information sheets and newsletters.

The Commission is consulting with stakeholders and considering whether a national study would be warranted and feasible. No decision has yet been made about the scope, methodology or timetable of any work.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Local Government: Redundancy Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals have submitted responses to the Audit Commission's call for evidence on severance settlements for senior council staff and have not requested that their submissions be treated in confidence. [292820]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 19 October 2009:

Your Parliamentary question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Five individuals have submitted responses to the general Call for Evidence and have not requested that their submissions be treated in confidence:

David Oddie (no organisation given)

Paul Francis, Kent Messenger Group

Maxine Thorne, Links Consultancy

Mike Schofield, Isitfair.co.uk

Melanie Carter, Bates Wells & Braithwaite

One further response was submitted under, we presume, a pseudonym of Jez Ebel.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development have also expressed a wish to contribute to the research in a verbal response.

The following bodies have submitted written responses to a separate letter sent to them by the Audit Commission:

Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)

Association of Local Authority Chief Executives (ALACE)

Association of Local Authority Treasurer's Societies (ALATS)

Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS)

The responses to the Call for Evidence will be combined with other evidence and summarised in a report to be published early in 2010.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Local Government: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which data collections from local authorities that were part of the best value performance indicator set and are not part of the national indicator set his Department is continuing to obtain. [293108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Best value performance indicators (BVPIs) were replaced by the new national indicator set on 1 April 2008. However, some of the data used to measure BVPIs forms part of larger data returns, which continue to be collected for uses such as financial management and to inform policy direction. Wherever we have been able to identify such data, the relevant BVPIs are listed in the following tables. In addition, the first table lists 16 former BVPI questions which were included in the new Place Survey in order to provide a balanced questionnaire and maximise the response rate; and the second table lists seven fire and rescue service BVPIs which are not collected directly but are available to CLG through the joint FRS/CLG incident recording system.

Data collected from local authorities

BVPI number	*BVPI name*
9	Percentage of council tax collected
10	Percentage of non-domestic rates collected
150	Expenditure per head of population
63	Average SAP rating of all HRA dwellings
66a	Percentage of rent collected (percentage)
66c	Rent written off as not collectable as percentage of LA's rent roll (percentage)
66d	Rent collection and arrears recovery: evictions
69	Percentage of rent lost through vacants (percentage)
72	Percentage of urgent repairs completed within Government time limits (percentage)
73	Average time taken to complete non-urgent repairs (days)
202	Number of rough sleepers
212	Average re-let time (days) of HRA stock
106	New homes on previously developed land
200a	Plan Making: Development Plan
200b	Plan Making: Milestones
Former BVPIs included in the Place Survey	
3	Overall satisfaction with council
4	Satisfaction with complaints handling
89	Satisfaction with cleanliness
90a	Satisfaction with waste collection
90b	Satisfaction with waste recycling (local facilities)
90c	Satisfaction with waste disposal (local tips)
103	Satisfaction with transport information
104	Satisfaction with bus services
CPA E14	Satisfaction with transport information—those who have seen information in the last year
CPA E15	Satisfaction with bus services—those who have used the bus service in the last year
119a-e	Satisfaction with cultural recreational facilities
119a	Sports and leisure facilities
119b	Libraries
119c	Museums and galleries
119d	Theatres and concert halls
119e	Parks and open spaces

Data collected from fire and rescue authorities

BVPI number	*BVPI name*
11a	Top 5 per cent. earners: women
11b	Top 5 per cent. earner: minority ethnic communities
11c	Top 5 per cent. earners: with a disability
12	Working days lost due to sickness absence
13	Voluntary leavers/staff
14	Percentage of early retirements
15	Percentage of ill health retirements
16a	Percentage of employees with a disability
17a	Percentage of black and ethnic minority employees
146i	Calls to malicious false alarms: not attended
146ii	Calls to malicious false alarms: attended
144	Accidental dwelling fires confined to room of origin
Available to CLG through the joint FRS/CLG incident recording system	
206iii	Deliberate fires: secondary (excluding vehicles)
206iv	Deliberate fires: secondary (in vehicles)
207	Fires in non-domestic premises
208	Escaping unharmed from accidental dwelling fires
209i	Smoke alarms: activated
209ii	Smoke alarms: not activated
209iii	Smoke alarms: none fitted

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to increase public awareness of measures to assist homeowners with mortgage repayments. [292560]

John Healey: The Department launched the new Mortgage Help communications campaign on 8 September 2009, specifically aimed at homeowners who are concerned about their mortgage payments. Advertising directs concerned homeowners to the campaign website

www.direct.gov.uk/mortgagehelp

for tailored advice on the steps they can take to keep their home. This includes sources of help and protection available through government schemes. Advertising also directs concerned homeowners to the help available through the campaign's money advice partners, which include the National Debtline, CAB, CCCS and Shelter.

The campaign highlights that more than 300,000 households have received help and advice with their mortgage since April 2008.

Local press and outdoor advertising is appearing initially in 22 areas which are at higher risk of repossessions, as calculated by court order data and rises in claims for job seekers allowance.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many households in each Government Office Region have received financial support from the Preventing Repossession Fund since its inception; [292756]

(2) how many households have received financial support from the Repossessions Prevention Fund. [293110]

John Healey: The £20 million Preventing Repossessions Fund was announced by the Chancellor in the Budget to enable local authorities to offer small loans to families at risk of homelessness through repossession or eviction. This forms part of the range of assistance that has been put in place at every stage to help households struggling to pay their mortgage. Information about the number of households who have received a payment from the fund will be published later this year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 8 September 2009, on support for homeowners, what forms of advertising were used; and what the cost was of that advertising. [293020]

John Healey: The Mortgage Help campaign is being promoted through national and local press, digital advertising, digital search and outdoor media. The campaign is still running and final costs are not yet available. The Department will publish a breakdown of campaign costs at the time of its next annual report.

National Policy Statements

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1435-6W, on national policy statements, what the latest timetable is for the *(a)* draft publication of, *(b)* consultation on and *(c)* designation of the first tranche of National Policy Statements. [292854]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government published an update to the Route Map for implementation of the Infrastructure Planning Commission regime, including the timetable for preparation of National Policy Statements, on its website on Tuesday 14 July 2009. Copies are also in the Library of the House.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect the rate of retail price index inflation of minus 1.4 per cent. will have on the level of business rates from April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [293895]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1131.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments on the Rating List in England had a SCAT Code of 442 according to records held by the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [292690]

Barbara Follett: The number of hereditaments in England with a SCAT Code of 442 (Takeaway Food Outlets) as at the appropriate dates is as follows:

As at 1 April	*Number*
2005	1,590
2006	1,883
2007	2,045
2008	2,206
2009	2,356

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his latest estimate is of the percentage change in rateable values between *(a)* the 2005 and *(b)* the 2010 draft rating list for each special category code, according to records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [292996]

Barbara Follett: I have placed a table of estimates of the percentage change in rateable values, by special category code, between the 2005 rating list and the 2010 draft rating list, as at 29 May 2009, in the Library of the House. These data are consistent with the consultation document titled: "The Transitional Arrangements for the Non-Domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

An updated draft list will be available for this type of analysis shortly.

Non-Domestic Rates: Renewable Energy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's guidance on the rating of *(a)* microgeneration wind turbines, *(b)* solar voltaic cells and *(c)* ground source heat pumps for the 2010 business rates revaluation; [292827]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 589W, on non-domestic rates: microgeneration, whether the 2010 rates revaluation will result in an increase in rateable values on properties in which microgeneration equipment was installed between 2008 and April 2010. [292849]

Barbara Follett: Microgeneration plant and machinery, including micro wind turbines and small-scale solar or photovoltaic cells, installed on or before 31 March 2010 are, in principle, liable to be included in the rateable values of properties for the 2010 revaluation. However, the Valuation Office Agency has no evidence that any of these are of sufficient value to, in practice, affect the rateable values of properties. Its advice on the rating of *(a)* microgeneration wind turbines, *(b)* solar voltaic cells and *(c)* ground source heat pumps is available in the Rating Manual on the Valuation Office's website at Volume 4 Section 3 Practice Note 8:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/rating_manual/vol4/sect3/frame.htm

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the *Secretary of State* for Communities and Local Government for what reasons a privacy impact assessment has not been undertaken in relation to the 2010 business rates revaluation. [293026]

Barbara Follett: A privacy impact assessment has not been undertaken for revaluation 2010. This is because the business rates revaluation applies only to non-domestic properties and does not represent a genuine risk to the privacy of the individual.

North East Economic Forum

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the North East Regional Assembly and its successor body has provided to the North East Economic Forum. [292812]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has provided no direct funding to the North East Economic Forum. We can confirm that neither the North East Assembly nor its successor body have made any payments to the North East Economic Forum.

Since its establishment in 2005, the North East Economic Forum has received £155,190.44 from One North East to support its activities. This funding has supported costs associated with three major regional conferences and a number of associated events.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to make further revisions to Planning Policy Statement PPS1. [292579]

John Healey: No review of Planning Policy Statement 1, 'Delivering Sustainable Development' has yet been programmed.

Property Codes Compliance Board

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding from the public purse has been given to the *(a)* Property Codes Compliance Board and *(b)* Property Ombudsman in the last 12 months. [292732]

John Healey: None.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name and address is of each regional planning body in England; and what the timetable is for regional development agencies to become the regional planning bodies. [292540]

Mr. Ian Austin: The current name and address for each regional planning body in England is given in the following table. There are no proposals for regional development agencies to become regional planning bodies.

Name of regional planning body	*Address*
North East Planning body	c/o Association North East councils, The Axis Building, Maingate, Kingsway North, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0NQ
Yorkshire and Humber Joint Regional board	c/o Local government Yorkshire and Humber, 18 King Street, Wakefield, WF1 2SQ
East of England Regional Assembly	Flempton House, Flempton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6EG
East Midlands Regional Assembly	Phoenix House, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0UL
North West Regional Leaders' Forum	c/o 4NW, Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, Wigan, WN3 5BA
South East England Partnership Board	Berkley House, Cross Lanes, Guildford, GU1 1UN
South West Strategic Leaders' Board	c/o South West Councils, Dennett House, 11 Middle Street Taunton, TA1 1SH
West Midlands Regional Assembly	Regional Partnership Centre, 3rd Floor, Albert House, Quay Place, 92-93 Edward Street, Birmingham, B1 2RA

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which areas are receiving reductions in their Growth Point funding compared to original anticipated allocations in the latest period for which allocations have been determined. [293347]

John Healey: The Government published a consultation paper on 2 October which seeks views on its proposed approach to making changes to the Growth Fund capital funding allocations in 2010-11. This includes options for consideration which might alter the Government's proposed approach for reducing allocations. I aim to publish our response to the consultation and revised funding allocations for 2010-11 within four weeks of the close of the consultation. The deadline for submitting comments is 13 November.

Regional Planning and Development: Green Belt

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which local authorities proposals have been made for green belt reviews in each of the most recent regional spatial strategies. [292595]

Mr. Ian Austin: Regional spatial strategies (RSS) do not express any planning policies which refer to specific sites (local authority areas); they identify broad locations, which may be located in a local authority area or cross a number of local authority boundaries.

Current RSS are recommending green belt reviews as follows:

North East

No specific proposals.

North West

Policy RDF4 allows for potential green belt changes associated with expansion of Manchester and Liverpool airports and a multi-modal freight proposal at Newton le Willows.

Yorkshire and Humber

Policy YH9 confirms that the extent of green belt should not change, but that green belt round York needs defining. Specific mention is also made of a potential need for strategic review of the West Yorkshire green belt, which extends into Leeds, Wakefield, Calderdale and Kirklees.

West Midlands

The Secretary of State is currently considering the recommendations of the independent panel report.

East Midlands

The principle of the Nottingham-Derby and Burton-Swadlincote green belts will be retained. However a comprehensive review of the most sustainable locations for growth within Nottingham Core Housing Market Area and Hucknall will be required urgently to consider how to accommodate future growth requirements over at least the next 25 years. As this may include considering locations within the green belt, when implementing this review through their local development documents.

East of England

Local review of green belt in Broxbourne, and that strategic reviews of green belt boundaries to meet regional development needs are needed in:

Stevenage, including land in North Hertfordshire;

Harlow, including land in East Hertfordshire and Epping Forest; and

Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis and Leighton Linslade.

South East

Policy SP5 the existing broad extent of green belts in the region is appropriate however, in order to meet regional development needs in the most sustainable locations, selective reviews of green belt boundaries are required:

in metropolitan green belt to the north east of Guildford, and possibly to the south of Woking, and

in the Oxford green belt to the south of the city.

In addition, a boundary review will be required in the area of the former DERA site at Chertsey.

Smaller scale local reviews are likely to be required in other locations, including around Redhill-Reigate, and these should be pursued through the Local Development Framework process.

South West

Following consideration of the recommendations of the independent panel that considered the draft RSS, the Secretary of State published her proposed changes to the RSS in July 2008. These include proposals to revise the general extent of the Bristol and Bath, Gloucester and Cheltenham and South East Dorset green belts to accommodate urban extensions as part of the most sustainable solution for delivering housing and other development. Changes are also proposed to the general extent of the Bristol and Bath green belt to provide for regionally significant development at Bristol International airport and the port of Bristol, and to the South East Dorset green belt to provide for development at Bournemouth airport.

London

The published London plan, February 2008 (consolidated with alterations since 2004) do not propose any changes to the London green belt.

Shelter: Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in his Department approved payments from his Department to Shelter for the production of publications about the housing situation in and around potential eco-town locations. [292868]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 761W.

Shelter: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department is making available to Shelter as part of the money advice partnership scheme. [292895]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government has provided up to £1.4 million of funding to Shelter for money advice services in 2009-10 to support delivery of Homeowners Mortgage Support and the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. In addition, we have provided £1.77 million to fund the National Homelessness Advice Service (NHAS) in 2009-10, a partnership between Shelter and the Citizens Advice Bureaux which provides specialist advice on homelessness prevention.

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the increase in rents in *(a)* council housing and *(b)* housing association social housing predicted over each of the next three years as part of his Department's Target Rent Scheme. [292892]

Mr. Ian Austin: Social rents are expected to rise in accordance with the rent restructuring formula, which allows for an average annual increase of RPI plus 0.5 per cent., with RPI set at the end of September in the year preceding. We do not have specific estimates for increases over the next three years.

The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) regulates registered social landlords (RSLs) in England to ensure that they provide decent homes and services for tenants. To protect tenants, TSA regulation places a limit on the maximum amount by which rents can rise each year. Rent can be increased by a maximum of RPI plus 0.5 per cent., plus £2 per week for individual rents that are below target levels.

In July, as part of a consultation on draft directions to the Tenant Services Authority, the Government published proposals relating to the regulation of rents set by registered social landlords after 1 April 2010. These proposals are based on a continuation of the rent restructuring policy set out in the document 'Guide to Social Rent Reforms' which was published by the

Government in March 2001. The consultation paper is available via the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/tsadirections

The Department intends to publish the final directions shortly.

Social Rented Housing: Sustainable Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities are not eligible to apply for funding from the Local Authority Challenge Fund. [293111]

John Healey: All English local authorities with a housing function are able to bid, and apply for funding to build new council homes. County councils are therefore the only local authorities who cannot bid for funding under this programme. Bidders need to pre-qualify as investment partners with the Homes and Communities Agency before grant can be awarded.

Standards Board for England

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of the Standards Board for England was for the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available. [292594]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 2008-09 annual report and accounts for the Standards Board for England, available on the Standards Board's website at:

www.standardsforengland.gov.uk

shows the Standards Board for England cost the Government, through grant in aid, £8,285,000 for that year.

Standards Board for England: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget of *(a)* the Standards Board for England and *(b)* the Adjudication Panel was in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [292725]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As stated in table 2 of the Standards Board for England's corporate plan for 2009-12, 'The changing role of the Standards Board for England', available on their website at:

www.standardsforengland.gov.uk

the planned budget for the Standards Board is £7,420,000 in 2009-10 and £7,372,000 in 2010-11.

Responsibility for the Adjudication Panel for England rests with the Ministry of Justice.

Standards for England

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse has been of the re-branding of the Standards Board for England as Standards for England. [292897]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The rebranding, which the Standards Board for England decided to undertake and to find from within its budgets of £8,285,000 for 2008-09 and £7,420,000 for 2009-10, cost £43,000.

These costs arise from a branding and identity review which the board considered necessary given its changed remit, as recommended by the Committee for Standards in Public Life, to become the strategic regulator for council standards committees and from subsequent development of the brand.

Tenant Services Authority

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the performance of the Tenant Services Authority against its objectives since its inception. [292734]

John Healey: The TSA are required to produce an Annual Report. I have asked the TSA to demonstrate in this report the extent to which the organisation has met its objectives since its inception. The annual report will be published and laid before Parliament by the end of the year.

Tribal Consulting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason Tribal Consulting has been employed by his Department to oversee the Total Place initiative; what Tribal's remit is; and what the cost is of the contract. [292896]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Tribal Consulting has been employed to work on two contracts for the Total Place initiative.

The 'Customer Insight' project assesses the use of information on the needs of people by the Total Place pilots. Specifically it asks what sort of information is available, how it is used and does this knowledge change how local services are provided to the public. It will cost £60,000 (excluding VAT).

The remit of the 'Spend Counting and Deep Dive' is to identify common issues raised by the Total Place pilots and what bearing central Government budgeting has on these, to better understand how the many sources of public sector funding arrive in a local area and to produce an evaluative report on the Total Place initiative. It will cost £218,000 (excluding VAT).

Working Neighbourhoods Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund after 2010-11. [292618]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have not determined any arrangements for the Working Neighbourhoods Fund beyond 2010-11.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 20 October 2009

NORTHERN IRELAND

Criminal Damages Compensation 1997

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many successful applications under the Criminal Damages (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) 1997 Order in each of the last five years were made by *(a)* the Loyal Orange Order and *(b)* the Gaelic Athletic Association. [292758]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out the number of successful applications for *(a)* the Loyal Orange Order and *(b)* the Gaelic Athletic Association.

	The Loyal Orange Order	*The Gaelic Athletic Association*
2004-05	4	0
2005-06	3	0
2006-07	2	0
2007-08	12	0
2008-09	0	1
2009-10 (to date)	0	0
Total	21	1

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293244]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its NDPBs and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10.

				Percentage
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
NIO	28	26	30	13
Forensic Science NI	2	0	13	0
Youth Justice Agency	7	0	4	6
Compensation Agency	2	0	0	0
NI Prison Service	17	13	13	0

From 3 November 2008, the NIO contracted out its procurement services to the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) in the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland under a service level agreement (prior to this, the NIO ran its own procurement unit). These figures are for all contracts that are arranged through the CPD (or, prior to 3 November 2008, the NIO's procurement unit). Collating information on other procurement contracts could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Northern Ireland Independent Monitoring Board

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* employed and *(b)* self-employed members of the public are participating in the work of the Independent Monitoring Board. [293661]

Paul Goggins: There are 13 employed and two self-employed members across the Independent Monitoring Board.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Circuses: Licensing

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made in the development of a new licensing system for travelling circuses; and if he will make a statement. [293940]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 907W.

English Heritage: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* minimum, *(b)* average and *(c)* maximum price of entry to an English Heritage property was in each year since 1997. [292301]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 12 October 2009]*: English Heritage has over 400 sites in its care of which around 112 charge admission. The remaining sites are free to visit.

For the purposes of this answer, English Heritage has provided data for the 104 sites that were consistently in its care for the full period in question. The average price of entry to an English Heritage property, based on one full price adult ticket, in each of the following years was as follows:

		£		
	Minimum charge	*Average charge*	*Maximum charge*	*Constant sample of sites*
1996-97	1.00	2.16	6.00	104
1997-98	1.10	2.26	6.00	104
1998-99	1.30	2.48	6.60	104
1999-00	1.40	2.61	6.90	104
2000-01	1.50	2.70	6.90	104
2001-02	1.60	2.83	7.20	104
2002-03	1.60	3.01	7.50	104
2003-04	1.80	3.24	8.00	104
2004-05	2.00	3.48	8.50	104
2005-06	2.30	3.69	8.95	104
2006-07	2.30	3.88	9.50	104
2007-08	2.40	4.09	9.80	104
2008-09	2.50	4.33	10.50	104
2009-10	3.00	4.52	13.40	104

Football: World Cup

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the inclusion of Leeds as a venue in the Football Association's bid to host the 2018 World Cup; and if he will make a statement. [294016]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Football Association are leading in the bid for the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups and are following a selection process to make venues available for FIFA to select host cities and training venues.

Gambling Research, Education and Treatment Foundation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on re-branding the Responsibility in Gambling Trust into The GREaT (Gambling Research, Education and Treatment) Foundation; and how much will be spent on setting up a new website for the organisation. [293878]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Research, Education and Treatment Foundation (GREaT) is a registered charity funded through voluntary donations. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the hon. Member to write to the chairman at The GREaT Foundation, 10 Brick Street, London, W1J 7HQ.

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many remote gambling licences have been issued by the Gambling Commission in each year since 2007; and how many such licensed remote gambling operators are regulated by the UK Gambling Commission. [293624]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The UK Gambling Commission has provided the figures on remote licences issued in each of the last three calendar years.

Number

Calendar year	*Remote operating licences issued*	*Remote operating licences surrendered/ revoked/lapsed*	*Ancillary remote licence[1] issued*	*Ancillary remote licence/ surrendered/ revoked/lapsed*
2007	189	2	346	4
2008	96	29	56	38
2009	86	34	52	47

[1] An ancillary remote licence allows a non-remote licence holder to provide ancillary gambling facilities by means of remote communication in restricted circumstances.

As of October 2009, there are 306 operators holding a remote operating licence with the Commission and 385 operators holding a remote ancillary operating licence. These figures include 18 operators who hold both a remote operating licence and a remote ancillary operating licence.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the gross gambling yield from remote gambling was in each of the last two years; and how many new player registrations for such gambling there were in each year since statistics have been collected. [293625]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission has published statistics on remote gambling conducted by its licensed operators since the changes under the Gambling Act 2005 came fully into effect on 1 September 2007.

Estimated figures are available for the second half of 2007-08 and for the full 2008-09 financial year as set out in the following table:

Time period	*Estimated gross gambling yield (£ million)*	*Estimated new player registrations (million)*
1 September 2007 to 31 March 2008	614.5	1.6
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	896	4.9

These figures do not include amounts gambled on sites located overseas by British residents but do include amounts gambled on sites located in Britain by overseas residents.

Holiday Accommodation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has contributed to the impact assessment on the abolition of the furnished holidays letting rules being carried out by HM Treasury. [294594]

Margaret Hodge: My hon. Friend the Member for Stevenage (Barbara Follett) raised this issue with Treasury Ministers and wrote to them setting out the industries concerns about these changes in detail.

My officials and I remain in discussion with Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) about the impact of these rule changes on the tourism industry. HMRC will be publishing their assessment of this together with draft legislation at the same time that the pre-Budget report is issued.

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the administration costs of each of the National Lottery distributors. [294375]

Mr. Simon: My Department encourages the national lottery distributors to keep their administration costs as low as possible and to share best practice, and their latest accounts indicate that most have reduced their operating costs in cash terms. However, as administration costs vary considerably depending on the type and size of grant given and the amounts that applicants receive, the costs listed by the distributors in their annual reports are not readily comparable between distributors.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the income of the National Lottery good causes has been in *(a)* actual and *(b)* real terms in each year since the National Lottery began. [294646]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is provided in the following tables:

(a) Actual (cash) terms

£000

	Arts	*Sports*	*Heritage*	*Big Lottery Fund and predecessors*	*Olympics*
1994-95	58,693	58,688	58,691	117,396	—
1995-96	306,475	306,580	305,869	614,372	—
1996-97	314,924	316,730	316,623	637,746	—
1997-98	353,541	363,280	365,747	867,390	—
1998-99	281,714	302,742	310,209	1,021,756	—
1999-2000	264,733	276,000	291,820	902,980	—
2000-01	277,321	294,821	316,085	874,309	—
2001-02	295,442	301,776	320,324	900,322	—
2002-03	255,701	258,090	290,925	784,402	—
2003-04	229,020	227,294	246,318	687,757	—
2004-05	241,062	239,616	266,275	723,458	—
2005-06	245,059	244,000	270,119	732,537	16,525
2006-07	212,604	213,132	234,040	630,507	115,759
2007-08	217,040	217,040	217,043	651,124	151,229
2008-09[1]	207,783	210,256	207,785	612,961	211,063

[1] Provisional outturn, net of Olympic transfers totalling £73 million between National Lottery Distribution Fund and Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund

(b) Real terms using GDP deflator

£000

	Arts	*Sports*	*Heritage*	*Big Lottery Fund and predecessors*	*Olympics*
1994-95	83,586.83	83,579.71	83,583.98	167,187.90	—
1995-96	424,274.94	424,420.29	423,436.01	850,518.45	—
1996-97	420,296.55	422,706.83	422,564.03	851,133.74	—
1997-98	459,806.99	472,473.31	475,681.83	1,128,106.75	—
1998-99	358,830.20	385,614.39	395,125.40	1,301,450.79	—
1999-2000	330,693.03	344,767.28	364,528.94	1,127,963.62	—
2000-01	341,924.15	363,500.85	389,718.39	1,077,983.13	—
2001-02	356,306.23	363,945.10	386,314.19	1,085,798.02	—
2002-03	298,744.04	301,535.19	339,897.42	916,443.13	—
2003-04	260,235.21	258,273.96	279,890.92	781,497.64	—
2004-05	266,511.15	264,912.49	294,385.91	799,834.16	—
2005-06	265,966.64	264,817.29	293,164.68	795,034.68	17,934.86
2006-07	224,112.16	224,668.74	246,708.48	664,636.06	122,024.98
2007-08	222,363.38	222,363.38	222,366.45	667,094.24	154,938.22
2008-09[1]	207,783.00	210,256.00	207,785.00	612,961.00	211,063.00

[1] Provisional outturn, net of Olympic transfers totalling £73 million between National Lottery Distribution Fund and Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the National Lottery has generated in sales in *(a)* actual and *(b)* real terms in each year since the National Lottery began. [294647]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is as follows:

£ million

FY ending March 31	*Actual Sales*	*Sales Real Terms*
1994-95	1,191	1,760
1995-96	5,217	7,465
1996-97	4,723	6,600
1997-98	5,514	7,458
1998-99	5,228	6,857
1999-00	5,094	6,577
2000-01	4,983	6,247
2001-02	4,834	5,970
2002-03	4,575	5,536
2003-04	4,615	5,433
2004-05	4,766	5,440
2005-06	5,013	5,576
2006-07	4,911	5,265
2007-08	4,966	5,114
2008-09	5,149	5,149

Note:
Real Terms calculated using the Retail Price Index

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of the National Lottery Commission has been in *(a)* actual and *(b)* real terms in each year since its establishment. [294649]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is as follows:

£ million

FY ending March 31	*Actual cost*	*Cost in real terms*[1]
1999-00	3.6	4.5
2000-01	5	6.2
2001-02	3.1	3.7
2002-03	3.3	3.9
2003-04	4.1	4.7
2004-05	4	4.4
2005-06	8.9	9.7
2006-07	11.4	12
2007-08	8.3	8.5
2008-09	5.8	5.8

[1] Costs in 2008-9 prices. Calculated using GDP deflators

Playing Fields: Planning Permission

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times Sport

England has been consulted on planning applications on playing fields below 0.4 hectares in size since April 2009; and how many of those planning applications have been rejected. [293881]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In December 2009 Sport England will publish the latest annual playing field statistics available for the year 2007-08. However, information on the number of applications referred to Sport England as a consequence of the change in definition of a playing pitch from 0.4 to 0.2 hectares will not be available until December 2010.

Sports: Facilities

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of sports facilities in each region are listed on the Active Places website; and how many unique users the website has had in each year since it was set up. [293880]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Active Places only lists certain types of sports facilities. It is therefore not possible to say what proportion of sports facilities in each region are listed on the Active Places website as there are no figures available for this.

The number of unique users the website has had in each year since it was set up is as follows:

	Number
2004	59,660
2005	161,506
2006	204,348
2007	218,378
2008	114,270

Source:
Sport England

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament Square: Construction

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to ensure that contractors digging up and closing Parliament square and Victoria street do so as far as possible at times when the House is not sitting. [294141]

Nick Harvey: Works in the streets around the Parliamentary Estate are controlled by Westminster city council and Transport for London. These organisations are aware of the requirement that Members' access is not to be impeded. The Parliamentary Director of Estates will make representations to both organisations on the need to minimise disruption to the House during sitting times.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the merits of the introduction of mandatory free companion passes for those who accompany blind or partially-sighted people on bus journeys. [292781]

Mr. Khan: The Government recently improved the statutory minimum concession to provide free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England for eligible disabled people and those aged 60 or over.

There are no plans at present to extend the statutory minimum to include companion passes. Under the Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007, local authorities have the flexibility to offer locally funded benefits over and above the statutory minimum, including companion passes. I believe that local authorities are best placed to know about the needs and circumstances of their residents and to decide on the most appropriate concessions to offer in their particular area based on their overall financial priorities.

The inclusion of companions to the entitlement is not just a question of cost, but also of ensuring robust and fair definitions of eligibility, mitigating against fraud and managing bus services' ability to respond.

The Department for Transport recently commissioned some research on the cost and impact of options for extending the current statutory minimum concessionary travel scheme. Based on this research, the Department estimates that it would cost around an extra £104 million per annum to extend the statutory minimum concession to enable free companion passes to those older and disabled people who require them.

Cycling: Helmets

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on the wearing of cycle helmets; and if he will make a statement. [294371]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport frequently receives representations both for and against making the wearing of cycle helmets compulsory.

On Thursday 13 August, the Government responded to a petition submitted by Luke Griggs of Headway—the brain injury association—to introduce a new law to make it compulsory for children under 16 to wear helmets while cycling. The response sets out the Government's position on cycle helmet wearing and can be found on the Number10.gov.uk website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page20350

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what studies his Department has undertaken on the effect of the 50 per cent. toll rise on the number of vehicles using the Dartford crossing; and if he will make a statement. [293865]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has not commissioned any specific studies to consider the effect of the recent changes to charges at the Dartford crossing. However, the Highways Agency regularly monitors the performance and use of the crossing. An impact assessment was undertaken on the proposed changes when they were consulted upon.

In a six-month period before the changes to the charges (1 April to 30 September 2008) 27,356,979 vehicles used the Dartford crossing. In a comparable period (1 April to 30 September 2009) 27,054,297 vehicles used the Dartford crossing after the changes to the charges.

Roads: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what guidance he has issued to the Highways Agency on the imposition of temporary speed limits on main roads at times when road works are not taking place. [294142]

Chris Mole: National guidance to all highway authorities, including the Highways Agency about applying temporary speed limits during the suspension of road works, is given in Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 8 paragraphs D3.7.10 and D3.7.11. The guidance seeks to prompt designers and operatives to remove speed limits when cones etc. have been removed and there are no other risks which justify retaining the lower limit.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons a 50 miles per hour limit on the A1 in the vicinity of the junction with the B1048 was in force in September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [294143]

Chris Mole: The 50 miles per hour speed limit was in place in September 2009 on the A1 in the vicinity of the junction with the B1048 for safety reasons, as the safety fence was incomplete and there were excavations along the verges for drainage repairs, as part of the A1 Eaton Socon Bypass resurfacing scheme. The works and speed limit started on 4 September and will be in place until completion of works in late December 2009.

This scheme involves drainage repairs, resurfacing of both concrete carriageways with low noise surfacing and the renewal of the existing safety fence. The works are carried out using overnight lane closures during the week, and weekend full carriageway closures.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Domestic Waste: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has issued any recent guidance to waste collection authorities on charging charity shops for the disposal of donated but unsold non-reusable household waste. [294558]

Dan Norris: On 12 October 2007, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs issued guidance to all local authorities on the classification and reporting of waste. This letter included DEFRA's interpretation of the Controlled Waste Regulations (1992) with respect to waste from charities and charity shops.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have expressed a preliminary interest in levying charges for the collection of household waste. [294559]

Dan Norris: No authorities have yet come forward to formally express an interest in participating in a pilot waste incentive scheme.

The hon. Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock) wrote to local authorities on 20 June 2008 inviting them to come forward, noting that DEFRA would only release the name of any authority which came forward, at the point of an explicit expression of interest.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the summary of responses to his Department's June 2008 consultation on draft guidance on incentives for recycling by households. [294617]

Dan Norris: A summary of responses to the formal consultation on "Waste Incentive Schemes: draft recycling service guidance" was published on 27 March 2009 and can be found on DEFRA's website.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many organisations responded to his Department's consultation on the guidance on the operation of waste incentive charges for the collection of household waste. [294629]

Dan Norris: The Department received 29 responses in total to its informal June 2008 consultation on incentives for recycling by households, which also included the recycling service guidance.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the transposition of the revised Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC) on the municipal collection of household waste. [294454]

Dan Norris: On 16 July 2009 my Department published a consultation paper on the transposition of key provisions of the revised Waste Framework Directive. The provisions addressed in that consultation paper include those in Article 11(1) on the collection of waste. The consultation paper contains an initial impact assessment.

The consultation paper referred to is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waste-framework/index.htm

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 June 200[illegible], *Official Report*, columns 8-9W, on waste disposal, if he will place in the Library a copy of the WasteDataFlow returns of each local authority for *(a)* quarter 3 and *(b)* quarter 4. [294456]

Dan Norris: The WasteDataFlow data for quarter 4 of 2008-09, and the final data at local authority level for all of 2008-09, will be published on DEFRA's website on 5 November 2009. In line with the National Statistics Code of Practice, these data cannot be released before this date.

Provisional data for quarter 3 of 2008-09 is published at regional level on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/wastats/bulletin09qtr.htm

Provisional local authority level data for quarter 3 can be viewed by registering to use WasteDataFlow at

http://www.wastedataflow.co.uk/

and downloading summary reports. These reports, including the background datasheets, are publicly available and contain detailed data for each local authority. To print out and put in the Library every data entry by each local authority in England could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he proposes to amend *(a)* enforcement powers and *(b)* penalties levied in respect of household waste offences consequent upon the coming into force of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. [294548]

Dan Norris: I do not propose to amend either the enforcement powers or the penalties.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons no *(a)* impact assessment and *(b)* equalities impact assessment was conducted in relation to clauses in the Climate Change Act 2008 in respect of the statutory duties of waste collection authorities for the collection of household waste. [294554]

Dan Norris: The amendment to section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, made through the Climate Change Act 2008, provides a single point of reference in legislation for local authorities. As it was a clarification of published policy and not a new measure, consultation and development of an impact assessment were not deemed necessary.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research has been commissioned by his Department into the *(a)* waste collection and *(b)* waste disposal implications of the shift to mercury-based compact fluorescent light bulbs for domestic use. [294557]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the adoption of *(a)* no side waste policies and *(b)* no closed lid policies. [294560]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has issued no such guidance.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will accept bids from joint waste authorities to participate in waste collection charge pilot schemes. [294608]

Dan Norris: Powers provided in the Climate Change Act allow up to five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

A joint waste authority (JWA) would be able to put forward a proposal to pilot a waste incentive scheme in its area if it had responsibility for waste collection.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance the Waste Improvement Network has published on the operation of *(a)* closed lid policies and *(b)* no side-waste policies for the collection of household waste. [294610]

Dan Norris: Neither the Waste Improvement Network (WIN), nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued any such guidance.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has made of the average capital cost, excluding value added tax, of a household wheeled refuse container, including the cost of delivery. [294616]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 723-24W.

Marine Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are followed in deciding what research projects to fund from the Marine Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund. [294308]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The DEFRA-chaired Marine ALSF Steering Group agrees the strategic direction of marine projects funded by the ALSF and ensures that they meet with the ALSF objectives.

For the majority, the Marine ALSF Steering Group commissions projects via open calls advertised on the MALSF website. All Expressions of Interest and full tenders are evaluated by a panel drawn from the Marine ALSF Steering Group members. There may also be occasions where a short list of contractors is compiled from previously submitted Expressions of Interest and these contractors invited to submit full proposals at a later stage of commissioning. On a few occasions the Marine ALSF Steering Group may commission work by single action tender.

All procurement and operation of evaluation panels is governed by the Marine Environment Protection Fund procurement protocol and panel terms of references contained within document "MEPF: who we are and how we operate" which is published on the MALSF website at:

http://www.alsf-mepf.org.uk/downloads/documents/mepf---how-we-operate.aspx

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for *(a)* Collaborative Offshore Wind Research into the environment and *(b)* Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund project funding have been made by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science; and how many of them have been successful. [294374]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The figures for *(a)* Collaborative Offshore Wind Research (COWRIE) and *(b)* Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund-Marine Environment Protection Fund (ALSF-MEPF) applications made by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science are as follows:

COWRIE

	Number
Submitted	2
Successful	2

ALSF-MEPF

	Number
Submitted	28
Successful	17
Unsuccessful	9
Awaiting outcome	2

Pesticides: Licensing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report,* column 1919W, on weedkillers, what recent discussions officials in his Department have held with representatives of Dow AgroSciences Ltd on the relicensing of the herbicide aminopyralid; and if he will make a statement. [294385]

Dan Norris: The Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive is the part of central Government responsible for the regulation of pesticides, detergents, chemicals, on behalf of DEFRA Ministers. CRD officials had a number of contacts, as is usual, during the course of the consideration of recent applications for approval of two new products containing aminopyralid.

River Lymington: Ferries

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to protect the Natura 2000 site at the mouth of the Lymington river from damage by commercial ferry operators; and if he will make a statement. [293175]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England is in discussion with the relevant ferry operator over the action that can be taken to avoid any adverse effect on the integrity of the Natura sites in the vicinity of the Lymington river from ferry operations.

Should Natural England advise that mitigation action cannot be taken to prevent any adverse effects, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with Natural England, will consider what steps it might be appropriate to take to avoid any damage to the protected sites.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total annual cost to the public purse was of *(a)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme and *(b)* the Waste Improvement Network in the last year for which figures are available. [294459]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's grant funding for 2008-09 was £55 million. The cost of running the Waste Improvement Network (WIN) for 2008-09 was £195,783. This cost covers delivery of the WIN Website, the Waste and Recycling Mentoring Scheme (WROMS) online conferencing tool, the co-ordination of waste network chairs and the development of an online self assessment tool for councils.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's Waste Prevention Toolkit. [294469]

Dan Norris: I refer the hon. Member for Meriden to the answer I gave on 13 July 2009, *Official Report,* column 16W.

Waste Management

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the amount and *(b)* the percentage of waste sent to landfill abroad in each of the last five years. [294056]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* The UK Plan for Shipments of Waste, which sets out Government policy on shipments of waste, prohibits the export of waste from the UK for landfill or other disposal operations with very few exceptions. Waste may, however, be exported for recovery, including recycling. Therefore, no such estimate has been made.

Weed Control: Avon

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on farmers incomes of English Nature discontinuing the practice of weed cutting in the lower Avon Valley; and if he will make a statement. [293148]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2004, the Environment Agency gave notice to landowners and farmers that it would review mechanised weed cutting in the lower River Avon in five years' time. The review, which was undertaken through a local partnership between the Environment Agency, Natural England and fishery and farming interests, concluded that there were no flood or nature conservation benefits from the practice. Consequently mechanised weed cutting was discontinued.

No assessment has been made of the implications on farmers' incomes of discontinuing mechanised weed cutting in the lower River Avon, although Natural England continues to give support and advice through Environmental Stewardship to farmers and landowners who wish to change their farming practice.

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure English Nature incurred on weed cutting in the lower Avon Valley in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [293149]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England (formerly English Nature) is not involved operationally in weed cutting but does provide scientific advice on the likely impacts of this activity.

Mechanised weed cutting on the River Avon System has been carried out by the Environment Agency as part of its routine river management.

The Environment Agency estimates the annual cost of weed cutting on the Lower Hampshire Avon over the last five years to be in the order of £120,000 per annum. This figure includes the direct operational costs (e.g. staff time and equipment), indirect costs (e.g. proportional costs for plant and consumables), plus additional costs such as those associated with liaison with local stakeholders. Costs vary year on year depending on how much weed has been cut, the timing of the cuts, and patterns of activity.

Weedkillers

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of the reports his Department has received on the half-life of the herbicide aminopyralid. [294487]

Dan Norris: There is a range of information relating to the way that aminopyralid degrades in a variety of situations. This information can be found in the disclosure document published by the Advisory Committee on Pesticides. I will ensure that a copy will be placed in the Library of the House when it is published shortly.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between Ministers in his Department and *(a)* Dow AgroSciences Ltd and *(b)* the Advisory Committee on Pesticides in relation to the herbicide aminopyralid exchanged in the last three years. [294488]

Dan Norris: A copy of the requested correspondence will be placed in the Library of the House shortly.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects of aminopyralid on human health; and if he will make a statement. [294489]

Dan Norris: The core data package for aminopyralid was first considered by the Advisory Committee on Pesticides at their meeting in September 2005. The assessment has been published by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as part of the European consideration of aminopyralid, and can be obtained via their website:

http://dar.efsa.europa.eu/dar-web/provision

The Advisory Committee on Pesticides considered whether there was any risk to human health arising from the misuse of that led to aminopyralid products appearing in manure earlier this year. The ACP considered that there was no unacceptable risk. The records of these meetings (in May and June 2009) can be found on the ACP website at:

www.pesticides.gov.uk/acp.home.asp

The disclosure document summarising the assessment will be placed on this website shortly and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have *(a)* died and *(b)* contracted sepsis as a result of receiving bacterially contaminated transfused blood components in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [293867]

Gillian Merron: Since 8 November 2005, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has been the United Kingdom competent authority for the safety and quality of blood components for transfusion. In that time MHRA has received 14 statutory reports of transfusion-transmitted bacterial infection where the transfused component was identified as probably or definitely the source of sepsis. Of these 14 reports, two involved deaths.

A voluntary reporting scheme Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT), funded by the UK Blood Services, operates alongside the statutory MHRA system. Between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2008, SHOT recorded 13 confirmed cases of bacterial infection transmitted by blood components in the UK. Of these, three individuals died. Although both MHRA and SHOT actively encourage participation in the SHOT scheme, it is possible that not all reports to MHRA will be shared with SHOT, and there may be further clinical investigation of individual cases reported via SHOT, hence the slight discrepancy between MHRA and SHOT figures. However, the two schemes are working to reconcile their data.

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS dentists are permitted to refuse to provide further treatment to patients if they do not attend for check-ups when advised to do so. [294353]

Ann Keen: Most dental practices choose to provide ongoing care to their patients including recalls at appropriate clinical intervals. However, once a course of treatment is completed, patients are free to change practice. Equally, dental providers are not compelled as part of their national health service contractual arrangements to offer further courses of treatment once the current one is complete. It is up to individual practices to decide whether to offer further courses of treatment to patients who do not respond to advice on recall intervals.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists were providing NHS services in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [294573]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service (NHS) dentists, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in annex E and annex G of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Annex E provides information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G provides information by constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The number of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007, 2008 and 2009 are available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2008/09" report. Information is provided for England and by SHA and PCT but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes any previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

These published figures relate to a headcount and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill 2007-08

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file EAX/036 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [293282]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file EAX/034 Human Tissue and Embryos (Draft) Bill; and if he will make a statement. [293283]

Gillian Merron: We can confirm that the Department does hold these files. It will take some time to review the information requested and assess what information can be released. We will endeavour to do so within 20 working days, which is the period of time that would apply had the hon. Member submitted his question as a freedom of information request. I will write to the hon. Member in due course and place a copy of my letter in the Library.

Human-Animal Hybrid Embryos

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Human Fertilisation Act 2008 to extend protection to embryos whose statutory storage period has expired; and if he will make a statement. [289162]

Gillian Merron: Yes. The Government have made the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Supplementary Provision) Order 2009 which applies to embryos whose statutory storage period had expired. The order permits, from 1 October, such embryos to remain in storage for 10 years from the date they were first put into storage.

In addition to the order, the Government have also introduced the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) (Amendment) Regulations 2009. These enable embryos that remain in storage by virtue of the order to benefit from the extended storage periods set out in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009 provided they fulfil the conditions set out in those regulations.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on the requirement to destroy embryos frozen under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act *(a)* 1990 and *(b)* 2008; what his policy is on embryos which have been stored for five years; and if he will make a statement. [291817]

Gillian Merron: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) code of practice provides guidance for centres on fulfilling the requirements placed on them by the legislation.

As a result of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 the statutory limit on storage for embryos has been extended from five to 10 years, bringing it into line with the storage period for gametes (sperm and eggs). The Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Periods for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009 set out the criteria that must be fulfilled for storage periods to be extended beyond 10 years.

For embryos that had been in storage for more than five years on the 1 October, where a five-year storage period applied to those embryos, the Government have made the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Supplementary Provision) Order 2009. The order permits, from 1 October, such embryos to remain in storage for 10 years from the date they were first put into storage. In addition to the order, the Government have also introduced the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) (Amendment) Regulations 2009. These regulations enable embryos that remain in storage by virtue of the order to benefit from the extended storage periods set out in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Statutory Storage Period for Embryos and Gametes) Regulations 2009 provided they fulfil the conditions set out in those regulations.

Low Birthweight Babies

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of babies born alive had a birth weight of less than 2.5 kg in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority area and *(c)* each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. [293187]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

What proportion of babies born in each primary care trust area of England were of low birth weight in the period since 1997. (293188)

What percentage of babies born alive had a birth weight of less than 2.5 kg in (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority and (c) each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. (293187)

The table attached provides the percentage of live births that were of low birth weight (less than 2.5kg) in: (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority and (c) each primary care organisation area for 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available).

A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Figures for 15 primary care organisations have been suppressed because of small numbers, in order to protect the privacy of individual mothers and babies.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Governing Bodies

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average size of the electorate of a foundation hospital governing board; and what the average number of votes cast in elections to such bodies has been. [292564]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The average size of the electorate of a foundation trust governing board is shown in table 1. These figures are based on the 115 foundation trusts authorised on or before 1 March 2009. The average number of votes cast in elections, referred to as aggregate election turnout in table 2, was collected by Monitor for the first time in 2008-09 and relates to elections held between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009.

Table 1

At year end (31 March)	*2008-09*	*Average 2008-09*	*2009-10 (Estimate)*	*Average 2009-10 (Estimate)*
Public constituency	924,087	8,036	1,065,096	9,262
Staff constituency	420,783	3,659	432,340	3,759
Patient constituency	120,453	1,047	143,326	1,246
Total membership	1,465,323	12,742	1,640,762	14,267

Notes:
1. Total foundation trust membership grew by 11 per cent. in 2008-09.
2. Public membership grew by 14 per cent. and staff membership by 9 per cent. during this period, however, patient membership fell due to a number of trust consolidating their patient and public constituencies.
3. Foundation trust plans show forecast membership growth of 12 per cent. during 2009-10.

Table 2

		Uncontested elections		
Constituency	*Number of elections*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Aggregate election turnout (Percentage)*
Public	233	40	17	27
Patient	34	3	9	26
Staff	86	27	31	19
Total	353	70	20	26

Notes:
1. 283 of the 353 elections held were a direction competition between more than one candidate.
2. More than 125,000 members voted in these 283 elections.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has evaluated on the effectiveness of stereotactic radiosurgery in the treatment of low-grade brain tumours. [293970]

Gillian Merron: None.

The point has not yet been reached where it would be possible to undertake the secondary research from which a comparative assessment of the effectiveness of this relatively new therapy could be made.

Social Services: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the provision of social care and support in the Leeds West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [293946]

Phil Hope: The Department is investing circa £3.5 billion over this comprehensive spending review period to support improvements in the provision of social care. In particular, the social care reform grant will provide an extra £520 million for the reform and transformation of adult social care, helping people to retain independence and exercise choice and control over the help they need.

In 2009-10, Leeds adult social care received a total of nearly £17.6 million of revenue and capital grant funding, both specific and non-specific. Of this, Leeds adult social care received £2.74 million in social care reform grant (revenue). Total grant funding by the Department to Leeds adult social care will increase to nearly £17.9 million in 2010-11. No data are available to identify the proportion of this funding used to support people in West Leeds.

The responsibility for the provision of adult social care within West Leeds lies with Leeds city council and it will have worked with its local partnerships to inform and develop joint strategic needs assessment to identify and agree local priorities.

Social Services: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase the provision of social care and support in Tamworth constituency. [292559]

Phil Hope: The Department is investing circa £3.5 billion over this comprehensive spending review period to support improvements in the provision of social care. In particular, the social care reform grant will provide an extra £520 million for the reform and transformation of adult social care, helping people to retain independence and exercise choice and control over the help they need

In 2009-10, Staffordshire Adult Social Care received a total of nearly £15.5 million of revenue and capital grant funding, both specific and non-specific. Of this, Staffordshire Adult Social Care received £2.85 million in Social Care Reform Grant (revenue), which is set to rise to £3.54 million in 2010-11.

The responsibility for the provision of adult social care within Tamworth lies with Staffordshire county council and it will have used Local Strategic Partnerships to inform and develop a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in Staffordshire to identify and agree local priorities.

Swine Flu: Aviation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research on the effects on swine influenza transmission of the number of cabin air changes per hour during commercial flights; and if he will make a statement. [293601]

Gillian Merron: The Department via the National Institute for Health Research has funded fourteen research projects related to swine influenza. None of these projects investigates influenza transmission during commercial flights.

Aircraft cabin air in the majority of commercial aircraft is exchanged and filtered every two to three minutes, exceeding the minimum number of air changes per hour that the World Health Organization recommends for healthcare facilities to prevent the transmission by droplet nuclei of infectious pathogens. In addition, a study published by the American Medical Association in 2002 found no evidence that cabin air re-circulation increases the risk for upper respiratory tract infections in commercial jet passengers.

The Department therefore does not have any plans to commission research in this area.

WALES

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many external training courses have been attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost of attendance at each such course was. [289695]

Mr. Hain: Staff have attended a total of 18 external training courses in the last 12 months. The total cost for all 34 of those attendees was £16,094.19.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carer's Allowance: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Birmingham Sparkbrook & Small Heath constituency *(a)* are entitled to and *(b)* receive carer's allowance. [291566]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table.

Carer's allowance—Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency

	Number
Total number entitled at February 2009	3,080
Total number in payment at February 2009	2,450

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Carers entitled to receive carer's allowance may not be paid it because they receive an overlapping benefit equal to or greater than their weekly rate of carer's allowance.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Children: Maintenance

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average it takes the Child Support Agency to pass deduction of earning payments on to the recipient parent; and what steps she is taking to introduce *(a)* same-day and *(b)* same-week processing. [292105]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how long on average it takes the Child Support Agency to pass deduction of earning payments onto the recipient parent; and what steps she is taking to introduce (a) same-day and (b) same-week processing. [292105]

Once the Child Support Agency has received the payment from the non-resident parent's employer, the average length of time it takes the Agency to process the payment and pass it on to the parent with care is one day. Cash and postal orders can be passed on to the parent with care on the same day as they are received into the Agency's bank. Many automated methods of payment such as child maintenance received from the non-resident parent by direct debit are forwarded once the banking system has cleared the funds. In these cases the parent with care receives maintenance three days later on average. This process takes longer if payments are made to the parent with care by cheque.

It should be noted that employers are required to pass on maintenance deducted from employee's earnings by the nineteenth day of the following month, parents with care may therefore experience a delay in receiving their first payment.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Employment and Support Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average *(a)* cost of carrying out and *(b)* time taken to carry out a work capability assessment for the employment support allowance; and if she will make a statement. [294032]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not possible to supply the cost of medical examinations. This is because if the information was disclosed it would prejudice the commercial interests of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and/or Atos Healthcare IT Services Ltd., the Medical Services contractor. This falls under the exemption in section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The time taken to carry out a work capability assessment (WCA) for employment support allowance varies dependant on the customer's medical condition. This is because the examining health care professional's (HCPs) aim is to obtain the necessary information that is required by the Decision Maker, whose task it is to make the decision on benefit entitlement. The examination will therefore take as long as necessary to obtain sufficient information for the purpose of determining entitlement to benefit.

Incapacity Benefit: Appeals

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1287-8, on incapacity benefit, what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber who had their claims terminated for failing a personal capability assessment/own occupation test between December 2007 and November 2008 (i) appealed and (ii) had their benefit reinstated on appeal. [290005]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not held centrally.

Incapacity Benefit: Employment Support Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants in each region she estimates will be migrated to employment support allowance in each quarter until 2013; and if she will make a statement. [293578]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

We are still making detailed plans for the migration of existing incapacity benefits claimants to employment and support allowance.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many assessors *(a)* there are and *(b)* there are expected to be in 2010 to assess (i) existing incapacity benefits claimants and (ii) new employment and support allowance claimants; and if she will make a statement. [293582]

Jonathan Shaw: Currently there are 526 health care professionals who are fully trained to undertake incapacity benefit (IB) medical examinations and 687 health care professionals trained to undertake employment and support allowance (ESA) medical examination. I can advise that Atos Healthcare are undertaking a training programme to enable health care professionals to undertake both IB and ESA medical examinations.

Projected figures relating to the expected HCP resources for the year 2010 are currently not available.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of claimants for industrial disease claims for coalminers beat knee and osteoarthritis were refused a claim in the first three months of eligibility of claim for medical assessment. [292765]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of disallowed claims for prescribed disease A6 (beat knee) is not available.

The number of cases for osteoarthritis of the knee decided following a medical examination was 375. Of these 234 were either refused industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB) or refused an increase in IIDB. This equates to 62 per cent. of claimants.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment her Department has made of the incidence of coactivity in claimants when assessing industrial disease claims for coalminers beat knee and osteoarthritis. [292766]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions has made no specific assessment of the incidence of coactivity in industrial disease claims for coalminers beat knee and osteoarthritis. The medical assessment in these claims would assess all the relevant loss of faculty and resulting disability from osteoarthritis of the knee or beat knee or both.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what health assessment process her Department uses to assess industrial disease claims for coalminers beat knee and osteoarthritis. [292767]

Jonathan Shaw: Following receipt of a claim, a Jobcentre Plus decision maker will decide whether the claimant satisfies the occupational criteria for the prescribed disease. If the prescription is satisfied, a referral is made to Atos Healthcare who will request any previous X-rays and/or any relevant hospital letters relating to the condition. All claimants are subsequently examined by a doctor working for Atos Healthcare. The doctor will, through a combination of history and examination findings, provide advice to the decision maker as to whether the condition is diagnosed, and if it is, on the level of disablement with reference to a person of the same age and sex whose physical and mental condition is normal.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what use her Department makes of the WOMAC index questionnaire in assessing industrial disease claims for coalminers' beat knee and osteoarthritis. [292768]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not use the WOMAC index questionnaire in assessing coalminers' beat knee and osteoarthritis.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many dedicated mental health experts are working in the Jobcentre Plus network. [294598]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated October 2009:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many dedicated mental health experts are working in the Jobcentre Plus network. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are introducing the post of Mental Health Coordinator within each Jobcentre Plus District. We currently have 42 coordinators in post, with a further six to take up post in November. It is not our advisers' nor that of the Mental Health Coordinators' role to be expert in mental health conditions. However, the coordinators have an important role in improving and facilitating links between local mental health organisations and employment services. They also ensure that Jobcentre Plus advisers are aware of the mental health support available in their district for those customers who would benefit.

Pensioners: Poverty

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate she has made of the number of pensioners living in poverty in Leeds West constituency; and if she will make a statement. [293939]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allows a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for Leeds, West constituency is not available.

Latest information for Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region, is based on three-year averages and is provided in the following table:

Pensioners falling below various thresholds of median household income, after housing costs, Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region, 2005-06 to 2007-08

	Number
Below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income	200,000
Below 50 per cent. of contemporary median household income	100,000
Below 60 per cent. of the 1998-99 median household income uprated in line with prices	100,000

Pensions: Costs

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the effect on the Exchequer of a change in the eligibility age for the state retirement pension for *(a)* men and *(b)* women to (i) 66, (ii) 67 and (iii) 68 years. [293621]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the net savings from increasing State Pension age for men and women to 66, 67 and 68 as part of the additional benefit spend of the overall package of reforms in the 2007 Pension Act package of reforms can be found in the pension reform factsheet. The relevant tables are Figure 16 (spend in cash terms), Figure 19 (spend in 2007-08 prices terms) and Figure 22 (spend in per cent. of GDP terms). A copy of the factsheet has been placed in the House of Commons Library and is also available at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/pensions-reform-factsheet.pdf

Work Capability Assessment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the likely effect of the new Work Capability Assessment on the proportion of existing incapacity benefit claimants expected to *(a)* pass the assessment and move into the work-related activity group of the employment and support allowance, *(b)* pass the assessment and move into the support group of the employment and support allowance and *(c)* fail the assessment when they are reassessed between 2010 and 2013. [297731]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 September 2009]:* When the new Work Capability Assessment is applied to existing incapacity benefits claimants, our initial estimates are that overall, around 65 per cent. will be assessed to be in the work-related activity group of employment and support allowance, 20 per cent. will be assessed to be in the support group, and 15 per cent. will be disallowed employment and support allowance.

These are working assumptions that will continue to be evaluated and updated in light of new evidence.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of applicants in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Scotland (i) failed and (ii) failed with no points the work capability assessment in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of those in each category had their employment support allowance re-instated after appeal. [293042]

Jonathan Shaw: National level statistics on the work capability assessment covering Great Britain were published on 13 October 2009 and are available via the ONS publication hub. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library and can be accessed directly on the following website:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca.asp

The published data summarises work capability assessment results for employment support allowance claims up to the end of February 2009. The Department does not assess people on the basis of passing or failing the work capability assessment. At the work capability assessment people can be assessed as falling into one of three categories:

Support group (for those with severe disabilities)—they receive a higher rate of benefit entitlement overall and exemption from mandatory involvement with pathways;

Work related activity group—they receive higher rate of benefit than those on jobseeker's allowance and are mandated to engage with Pathways to Work;

Fit for work—individuals can ask for a reconsideration or appeal if they disagree with the decision.

The following table summarises the published figures for Great Britain and the equivalent figures for Scotland.

ESA on-flows October 2008 to February 2009 by result of medical assessment

	Great Britain		*Scotland*	
Work capability result	*Volumes*	*Percentage*	*Volumes*	*percentage*
Support group	10,000	5	800	4
Work related activity group	21,600	11	1,500	7
Fit for work	68,800	36	8,600	42
Claim closed before assessment complete	74,500	38	8,000	39
Assessment still in progress	19,000	10	1,600	8

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 100

HOME DEPARTMENT

62 South Eaton Place

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the home information pack for 62 South Eaton Place was updated to reflect the fact that the freehold was being sold with the leasehold. [293112]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has served notice under the Leasehold Reform Act to acquire the freehold to merge with its leasehold interest of 62 South Eaton Place so as to achieve better value for money on its outright disposal. Until the freehold is acquired the home information pack cannot be amended.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a property information questionnaire has been produced as part of the home information pack for 62 South Eaton Place. [294083]

Mr. Woolas: There was no legal requirement to prepare a property information questionnaire with the home information pack for 62 South Eaton Place. The sale particulars and supporting information held by the selling agent has met the requirements of prospective purchasers.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shopkeepers were prosecuted in *(a)* England, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* Leeds North West for selling alcohol to underage drinkers in the latest period for which figures are available. [294291]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1024W. The table is broken down into male, female and other defendants, but we are not able to differentiate between shopkeepers and any other defendants. Figures are broken down into police force area and are not available by constituency. The data for 2008 will be available at the end of January 2010.

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate he has made of the number of anti-Semitic attacks during Jewish high holy days in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and if he will make a statement; [R] [293290]

(2) what steps the Government is taking to protect the Jewish community from anti-Semitic attacks; and if he will make a statement. [R] [293291]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government abhor all forms of hate crime. It is not possible to make estimates of the number of anti-Semitic attacks during Jewish high holy days. However, the Association of Chief Police Officers National Community Tension Team (NCTT) collects intelligence data on hate crime which informs police deployment decisions and acts as an indicator of community tension. As such, NCTT data can inform responses to fluctuations in anti-Semitic attacks connected to particular events on an operational basis for the police.

The Home Office has identified £5 million from the 2009-10 budget of the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) to reduce the vulnerability of crowded places to terrorist attack. This funding will be allocated to priorities identified by local partnerships and risk assessments carried out by Counter Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSAs). The funding will be directed at local authorities to improve the protection of crowded places locations and third sector organisations, such as the Community Security Trust, should work with local authorities to explore how they may make use of this funding.

The All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism: Government Response One year on Progress Report published in May 2008 set out our current programme of work to combat anti-Semitism. A command paper will be published by May 2010 setting out further progress. We have also recently published a Cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan to tackle all forms of hate crime, including anti-Semitism.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued to people *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 18 years in (i) England and (ii) North East Cambridgeshire in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [290669]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 September 2009]*: The latest available published data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued covers the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2007 and are not available below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

The available information is shown in the following tables. The first table shows the number of orders issued to young people (defined as being aged 10 to 17 at the date of appearance in court) and the second the number of orders issued to adults (defined as being aged 18 or over at the date of appearance in court).

Table 1: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued to persons aged 10 to 17[1] at the Cambridgeshire criminal justice system (CJS) area and at all courts in England as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, January 2003[2] to December 2007

	CJS area	
	Cambridgeshire	*England*
2003	10	598
2004	3	1,291
2005	14	1,493
2006	15	971
2007	4	869
Total	46	5,222

[1] Previously issued data have been revised.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 2: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued to persons aged 18+[1] at the Cambridgeshire criminal justice system (CJS) area and at all courts in England as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, January 2003[2] to December 2007

	Cambridgeshire	*England*
2003	5	679
2004	23	2,013
2005	34	2,344
2006	16	1,509
2007	16	1,250
Total	94	7,795

[1] Previously issued data have been revised.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
OCJR Court Proceedings Database

Antisocial Behaviour: Crime Prevention

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of mosquito ultrasonic devices in use in *(a)* London and *(b)* England; [293535]

(2) if he will review the use of mosquito ultrasonic deterrent devices by *(a)* police forces and *(b)* others. [293536]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the use of mosquito dispersal devices is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

We encourage local agencies to consider the full range of innovations, schemes and practices intended to reduce crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. It is for local agencies like the police and local authorities to decide on the most appropriate interventions to tackle antisocial behaviour based on their knowledge of what works best locally. The Home Office does not promote or recommend any particular commercial product or venture above this.

The use of any device like "mosquito" which claims to disperse groups of young people should be treated with caution and if used should form part of an overall strategy to tackle drivers of that antisocial behaviour and to encourage more constructive behaviour.

We have no plans to review the use of mosquito ultrasonic deterrent devices.

Asylum

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have been *(a)* dealt with and *(b)* concluded under the legacy casework programme. [293168]

Mr. Woolas: The total conclusions now stand at over 197,500 cases concluded to end of May 2009 and Lin Homer, chief executive of the UK Border Agency, will update the Home Affairs Select Committee on performance to date this month.

Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on implementation of the National CCTV Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [294212]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Progress continues to be made on implementing the National CCTV Strategy led by the National CCTV Strategy Programme Board. The Programme Board has been reviewing the recommendations made in the strategy and, as indicated in my answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 521-22W, some of the recommendations are either no longer appropriate or need reviewing. We will announce the outcome of that review in due course.

Crime: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of crime were recorded in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997. [294194]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Statistics for the Enfield North constituency are not collected centrally.

The available information relates to offences recorded by the police in the Enfield local authority area and is given in the following table. Data for total crime at local authority level are only available from 2000-01.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in Enfield—2000-01 and 2001-02[1]

	Number of offences
2000-01	28,019
2001-02	29,401

[1] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in Enfield—2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

	Number of offences
2002-03	30,042
2003-04	29,998
2004-05	28,131
2005-06	27,473
2006-07	27,058
2007-08	25,248
2008-09	24,566

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crime: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of crime were recorded in Leeds North West constituency in each year since 1997. [294294]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Statistics for the Leeds North West constituency are not collected centrally.

The available information relates to offences recorded by the police in the Leeds local authority area and is given in the following tables. Data for total crime for Leeds are only available centrally from 2001-02.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in Leeds, 2001-02[1]

	Number of offences
2001-02	120,477

[1] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in Leeds, 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

	Number of offences
2002-03	128,920
2003-04	125,692
2004-05	103,404
2005-06	98,014
2006-07	94,184
2007-08	85,737
2008-09	82,272

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Departmental Advertising

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which initiatives of his Department and its agencies expenditure on advertising has been incurred in each of the last five years; how much was spent on each such initiative; and which such initiatives were offered for tender through the Central Office of Information. [292528]

Mr. Woolas: The following table outlines Home Office and its agencies spend on advertising in each of the last five years, broken down by campaign area. All were carried out via the Central Office of Information.

Recruitment advertising is not done centrally but carried out across the Department and hence spend could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	Campaign	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	Acquisitive Crime Reduction	6,100,808
	Antisocial Behaviour	366,553
	Child Protection on the Internet	290,225
	Clean Up campaign 2005-06	25,722
	Domestic Violence	432,263
	Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	936,688
	Gun Crime	162,042
	Police Specials Recruitment	1,885,559
	UK Passport Service[1]	124,630
2005-06	Acquisitive Crime Reduction	4,123,311
	Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign	92,204
	Antisocial Behaviour	396,475
	Child Protection on the Internet	862,229
	Clean Up campaign	39,819
	Crime Stoppers	82,182
	Domestic Violence	534,587
	Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	1,524,701
	Park Mark Car Parks	94,260
	Police Specials Recruitment	1,389,166
	Rape	66,153
	UK Passport Service[1]	76,000
2006-07	Acquisitive Crime Reduction	3,266,192
	Alcohol Binge drinking	1,975,005
	Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign	231,713
	Child Protection on the Internet	46,824
	Domestic Violence	800,384
	Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	3,467,021
	Immigration	790,860
	Knife Amnesty	137,083
	PCSO Recruitment	1,748,743
	Rape	280,022
	Single Non-Emergency Number	780,325
	Stop and Search	134,501
	Identity and Passport Service (IPS) Communications[1]	105,950
2007-08	Alcohol Harm Reduction	2,900,411
	Community Safety	866,889
	Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	898,509
	Immigration	1,973,558
	Kerb Crawling	218,025
	Mobile Phone Blocking	190,162
	IPS—Passport Authentication by Interview	1,043,714
	IPS Communications[1]	78,417
2008-09	Acquisitive Crime Reduction—Burglary	918,170
	Alcohol Harm Reduction	2,790,203
	Community Safety	2,346,390
	Drugs (including FRANK campaign)	717,397
	Human Trafficking	8,928
	Immigration—Points Based System	2,453,007
	IPS Communications[1]	21,500

[1] IPS Communications costs (and its predecessor the UK Passport Authority) were related to informing the public of passport fee increases and encouraging the public to get the applications in early to help distribute passport demand more evenly throughout the year.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293234]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report and is working to achieve these. It has the ability to identify small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on its system and currently has 1,883 registered.

The Department does not capture company size information in relation to number of employees below that of the definition of SMEs, which are enterprises that employ fewer than 250 employees.

To provide information of the number of contracts awarded to small businesses for the Home Department and its agencies for each of the last four financial years would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293334]

Mr. Woolas: During 2008-09 the Home Office spent £3.8 million on first class rail travel with its main travel service provider. The Department's spend on all travel 2008-09, not including expenditure incurred by its agencies, was £14.6 million. The cost of travel for pervious financial years cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

All Home Office expenditure on rail travel conforms to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and any other guidance as applicable contained within Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity & Propriety.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on *(a)* train travel, *(b)* hotels and *(c)* restaurant meals for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [290167]

Mr. Woolas: Information required to answer this question could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Details of business expenses and hospitality received by departmental senior officials for the quarter 1 April to 30 June 2009 can be viewed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/annual-reports-strategy

The Cabinet Office annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers for 2008-09 was published on 16 July and can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Servant Management Code respectively. All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Disadvantaged People

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the purpose of the Adults Facing Chronic Exclusion pilot is; how much funding under the pilot has been *(a)* distributed to and *(b)* spent by each local authority in each year since the pilot began; and how much such funding he expects to be (i) distributed and (ii) spent in the next two years. [291944]

Mr. Malik: The ACE Programme is a three-year, £6 million fund designed to test new approaches to tacking chronic social exclusion among the most marginalised people in society.

12 pilot projects have been directly funded across England. They are testing out ways to improve outcomes for adults with chaotic lives and multiple needs through developing new types of intervention and changing local service provision. They are led by voluntary organisations, working in partnership with other local agencies.

The funding breakdown is as follows:

Funding (£)

Pilot location	*Pilot organisation*	*September 2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
Newcastle	Tyneside Cyrenians	107,061	189,673	0	0	296,734
Luton	NOAH	87,194	189,478	102,280	0	378,952
Lambeth and Southwark	Thamesreach	110,379	222,390	225,654	113,642	672,065
Islington	Forensic Therapies	87,500	175,000	175,000	87,500	525,000
Merton	South West London	94,500	189,000	189,000	94,500	567,000
Lambeth	St. Mungo's	81,898	177,808	208,395	112,483	580,584
Chatham, Kent	MCCH	88,667	159,833	159,833	82,667	491,000
Bolton	Turning Point	92,915	214,214	147,846	0	454,975
Milton Keynes	RDA Milton Keynes	89,000	178,000	178,000	89,000	534,000
Halifax	Calderdale Women's Centre	96,276	177,659	196,936	95,434	566,305
Manchester and Durham	After Adoption	52,874	85,308	90,603	38,594	267,379
Bristol	Fairbridge	60,000	112,745	112,954	55,372	341,071
	Total	1,048,264	2,071,108	1,786,501	769,192	5,675,065

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of progress made under the Adults Facing Chronic Exclusion pilot to date; to what areas of expenditure funding under the pilot is available; what estimate he has made of the number of people supported under the pilot in each year since its establishment; and what forecast he has made of the equivalent number in each of the next two years. [291945]

Mr. Malik: Assessment of the progress made by the Adults facing Chronic Exclusion pilots is being measured through the ACE national evaluation, which is being undertaken by Matrix Consultants. The evaluation aims to assess the project process, its impact on outcomes for both service users and services, and the cost effectiveness of the interventions.

The ACE programme is spent on services which achieve one or more of the following:

Simplifying the complexities associated with several statutory services working collaboratively (Housing, benefits, health and criminal justice system) to offer co-ordinated support to someone with multiple needs.

Offering practical help to people to access several social services at one time

Helping people to negotiate difficult times in their lives such as leaving prison, leaving care and fleeing domestic violence

The pilots work with approximately 1,000 people per year.

Drug Seizures: London Airports

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much cocaine has been seized at *(a)* Gatwick and *(b)* Heathrow airport in each month since April 2009. [293126]

Mr. Woolas: From April 2009 until the end of September 2009, a total of 496.51 kilos of cocaine were seized by UK Border Agency officers working in the Border Force south region, which includes all ports along the south coast and Gatwick airport. During the same period, a total of 234.07 kilos of cocaine were seized by UK Border Agency officers in the Heathrow region.

The following table provides a monthly breakdown of these seizures.

Cocaine seizures

Quantity (kilos)

	Year to date	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
South region	496.51	59.46	79.58	72.82	135.35	26.25	123.05
Heathrow region	234.07	30.86	46.54	48.69	21.40	44.34	42.24

The above data have been extracted from locally-collated management information. They are provisional and therefore may be subject to change.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by the UK Border Agency was from the receipt of an application from a European national for permanent residence to the determination of a case in the latest period for which figures are available. [293115]

Mr. Woolas: In the current operational year to date the average time taken to determine an application for permanent residence submitted by a European national is 7.3 months from the date of receipt.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what target his Department has set for the average length of time for the UK Border Agency to determine applications for leave to remain under the seven years child concession. [293116]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency considers each case on its own individual merits and as such the length of time taken to consider an application under the seven years child concession will vary. Therefore we are unable to provide a specific time frame for considering these applications. However, all remaining applications made under the seven year child concession will be considered by the UK Border Agency by spring 2010.

Entry Clearances: Appeals

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long on average it took for a visa to be issued following a successful appeal against a visa refusal in the last three months. [291871]

Mr. Woolas: It takes approximately six weeks for the decision of the AIT to be notified to visa sections overseas, including time taken for the UK Border Agency to decide whether to appeal against the decision. The visa section will then contact the appellant within three weeks, to request return of the passport. Once this is obtained, further checks may be carried out to ensure there has not been a change of circumstances since the decision. The visa is then issued. The visa section aims to complete the further processing as soon as possible but this will depend on the speed with which the passport is returned and the number of checks that need to be carried out. It is too early to give details on the last three months.

Offenders: Mentally Ill

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people arrested were deemed to have mental health problems in the latest period for which figures are available. [293980]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Information on the mental health of persons arrested does not form a part of the collection.

Police

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were arrested for (i) drug-related offences, (i) offences related to possession of a knife, (iii) offences related to possession of a gun and (iv) theft in the last 12 months. [293794]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold this information.

Police Stations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police stations there were in each police force area in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each of the last 12 months, excluding mobile police stations; and if he will make a statement; [294072]

(2) how many police stations were *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each police force area in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [294073]

Mr. Hanson: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of offences under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; if he will commission research into the efficacy of the legislation; and if he will make a statement. [293656]

Mr. Hanson: Information showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') in England and Wales from 2000 to 2007 is shown as follows:

Persons found guilty at all courts of offences under RIPA in England and Wales

Offence	*Statute*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Unlawful interception of a postal, public or private telecommunications system	Sections 1(1), (2), (7)	—	—	1	3	4	1	—	—
Failure to give effect to an interception warrant	Sections 11(4), (7)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Unlawful disclosure of details of interception warrant	Sections 19(4)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Failure to disclose key to protected information	Section 53	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disclose details of a S49 notice	Section 54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total		—	—	1	3	5	1	—	2

These are from the official Ministry of Justice statistics. Figures for 2008 are due to be published at the end of January 2010. The encryption provisions of RIPA came into force on 1 October 2007 and these figures are therefore not yet reflected in the table. Some information is available in the Chief Surveillance Commissioner's report for 2008-09 which shows there were two s53 convictions for failing to disclose the key to protected information.

The Government are satisfied that offences set in RIPA are appropriate and that the legislation is being used effectively.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answers of 17 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 295-6W, on road accidents, what the estimated cost in police time of dealing with road closures due to road traffic accidents on *(a)* motorways and *(b)* trunk roads in each police force area in the South West was (i) from July to December 2005, (ii) in 2006, (iii) in 2007, (iv) in 2008 and (v) in 2009 to date. [287098]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not collected centrally.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits each of the Ministers in his Department has made to Afghanistan in each of the last 12 months. [293808]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The dates of both my and my predecessors' visits to Afghanistan in the last 12 months, and those of Ministers in my Department are detailed as follows. The Minister for International Defence and Security and Minister for Strategic Defence Acquisition Reform have not visited Afghanistan in the last 12 months.

Secretary of State for Defence—John Hutton

18 to 23 October 2008: Iraq and Afghanistan

18 to 21 January 2009: Afghanistan and Pakistan

Secretary of State for Defence—Bob Ainsworth

26 to 30 June 2009: Afghanistan

2 to 7 October 2009: Afghanistan and Pakistan

Minister for Veterans

4 to 8 February 2009: Afghanistan

Minister for Defence Equipment and Support

5 to 8 January 2009: Afghanistan

10 to 12 August 2009: Afghanistan

Minister for the Armed Forces

21 to 24 December 2008: Afghanistan

26 to 30 July 2009: Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel have been injured in Afghanistan in the last 18 months. [293821]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Between 1 March 2008 and 15 September 2009 (the latest date for which validated data are held) there have been 95 naval service personnel injured in Afghanistan, of which 15 were from the Royal Navy and 80 were from the Royal Marines. Injury can either be as a result of battle (wounded in action) or non battle (operational accidents).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces rounds of ammunition of each type have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in Afghanistan in each month since 2001. [293833]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force personnel have been injured in Afghanistan in the last 18 months. [293836]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Between 1 March 2008 and 1 September 2009 (the latest date for which validated data is held) there have been 65 RAF personnel injured in Afghanistan. Injury can either be as a result of battle (wounded in action) or non-battle (operational accidents).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK weapons of each type have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in Afghanistan in each month since 2001. [293840]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on lost and stolen UK weapons in Afghanistan is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Individual units record their weapon losses but information is not aggregated centrally.

Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving armed forces personnel are awaiting *(a)* reconsideration of a decision on their claim under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and *(b)* an appeal hearing before the Pensions Appeal Tribunal. [293999]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 16 October 2009 there were 15 serving armed forces personnel who had registered for a reconsideration prior to 1 July 2009 (the latest date for which validated data are available) and are awaiting an outcome under the armed forces compensation scheme (AFCS).

As at 16 October 2009 there were 125 serving armed forces personnel who had registered an appeal prior to 1 July 2009 (the latest date for which validated data are available) and are awaiting an appeal hearing before the First Tier Tribunal (formerly the Pension Appeal Tribunal) under the AFCS.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much will be spent on pay for adult instructors in the cadet force in the next six months. [293151]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of the remaining budget for 2009-10 paid days training (PDT) for adult instructors in each of the three services cadet forces and their respective combined cadet forces (CCF), are provided in the following table.

Cadet force and CCF	*Remaining PDT budget (£ million)*
Army Cadet Force and CCF (Army)	1.3
Air Cadet Organisation and CCF (RAF)	2.0
Navy Command Cadets	0.36

Armed Forces: Drugs

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many drug tests for each class of drugs on *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel from each regiment produced positive results in each quarter since January 2008. [293998]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following tables reflect the results of drug tests in the armed forces since January 2008. A breakdown of the Army figures by regiment could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Navy

	Total number of tests	*Number of positive results*		
		Class A	*Class B*	*Class C*
2008				
1 January to 31 March	3,114	15	0	7
1 April to 30 June	3,404	8	0	6
1 July to 30 September	3,239	25	0	4
1 September to 31 December	3,026	14	0	2
2009				
1 January to 31 March	2,779	5	3	1
1 April to 30 June	3,879	5	5	0
1 July to 31 July	1,829	3	5	0

Army

	Total number of tests	*Number of positive results*		
		Class A	*Class B*	*Class C*
2008				
1 January to 31 March	19,885	127	5	87
1 April to 30 June	24,787	199	3	96
1 July to 30 September	19,978	128	4	69
1 September to 31 December	32,652	168	3	111
2009				
1 January to 31 March	25,045	90	40	33
1 April to 30 June	26,932	83	88	10
1 July to 31 July	10,540	16	28	5

Royal Air Force

	Total number of tests	*Number of positive results*		
		Class A	*Class B*	*Class C*
2008				
1 January to 31 March	3,310	2	0	2
1 April to 30 June	2,436	4	0	7
1 July to 30 September	3,477	2	3	4
1 September to 31 December	4,458	6	0	6
2009				
1 January to 31 March	2,742	3	0	0
1 April to 30 June	3,386	0	0	2
1 July to 31 July	804	0	0	0

Notes:

1. A single test sample may contain more than one class of drug; the sum of positive test results for class A, B and C drugs may therefore be greater than the overall number of positive results.

2. Cannabis was re-classified from class C to class B in January 2009 and is therefore included in the positive results in whichever class the drug was considered in at the time the test was taken.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens from *(a)* British Overseas Territories and *(b)* Crown Dependencies are serving in the British armed forces. [293308]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 1 September 2009, the number of UK regular armed forces personnel from British Overseas Territories was 390. This figure includes 40 people who recorded their nationality on the joint personnel administration (JPA) system as 'British Hong Kong'.

Since the introduction of JPA, we cannot identify those from Crown dependencies.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the JPA system, these statistics are provisional and subject to review.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of carbon monoxide poisoning were reported as occurring in services accommodation in each of the last five years. [294001]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There have regrettably been three substantiated cases of carbon monoxide leaks, all in 2007. Immediate action was taken in all three cases and in two cases occupants required medical attention.

This Department takes the health and safety of all occupants of service family accommodation seriously and has a legal duty to investigate all suspected reports of carbon monoxide, test any suspect appliances and conduct annual gas safety inspections.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many engineers are contracted by Modern Housing Solutions to undertake work on service accommodation; and at what cost. [294002]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Given changes in works undertaken, it is not possible to provide a meaningful figure for the number of engineers contracted at any particular time. The numbers vary depending on the work being undertaken, and seasonal variations.

Armed Forces: Pay

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments of salary there were to armed forces personnel in each month since January 2008; and of what total amount in each case. [293997]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Detailed information about the number of armed forces personnel over and underpaid since January 2008 is not held because the joint personnel administration system used is now in "steady state".

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's performance against its key targets for pay accuracy can, however, be found in its annual report and accounts, and copies of these can be found in the Library of the House. Details are set out as follows.

For financial year 2007-08, 99.49 per cent. of personnel were paid accurately with 99.9 per cent. being paid by the due date.

During financial year 2008-09, 97.9 per cent. of personnel were paid accurately with 99.9 per cent. being paid by the due date.

Delays or errors in individual payments can also occur as the result of late or incorrect inputs by individuals or unit human resource staff. We do not hold data on this.

Departmental Information Officers

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers his Department has. [293994]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Currently, there are 110 press officers employed across the Ministry of Defence (as recorded in the Central Office of Information's White Book). This includes civilian and military staff across the Department (including within single services) and is defined as those who directly interface with national or regional media on news issues, and in direct support of operations.

Departmental Pay

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's staff received annual remuneration, including benefits, of £100,000 or more in the last year for which figures are available. [293996]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For financial year 2008-09 the MOD had 95 employees, of these, three have left MOD employment, whose gross earnings paid through payroll for the year exceeded £100,000.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of each course. [289675]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD is dedicated to developing its staff and provides training and development opportunities to help employees realise their full potential and support the achievement of business objectives.

External training costs are delegated to lower level budgets and as such, the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Typhoon aircraft are expected to be mothballed after delivery to the Royal Air Force. [294484]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The term 'mothballing' has been taken to mean a serviceable aircraft in long-term storage and subject only to Anti-Deterioration Maintenance. There are no current plans to mothball Typhoon aircraft after delivery to the Royal Air Force.

General Richard Dannatt

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his consent was sought for substantive discussions between General Richard Dannatt and the right hon. Member for Witney while the General was a serving officer. [294140]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 October 2009]*: No such consent was sought.

Government Communications

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department *(a)* are classified as Government communicators and *(b)* have access to the Government Communications Network. [293995]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Our records indicate that the Ministry of Defence has 508 staff classified as Government communicators, all of whom have access to the Government Communications Network for their professional development. This figure is split approximately 35 per cent. service and 65 per cent civilian employees. These staff principally perform communications roles and include: press officers, media, marketing, internal comms, e-media, stakeholder communications, media training, events, visits, branding, design, publications, our deployable military media operations capability, strategy and planning.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving soldiers have injuries sustained during operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [293632]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* For the period 1 January 2003 to 15 September 2009 (the latest date for which casualty data is available) 1,521 soldiers (Army personnel only) who are currently serving sustained injuries on operations in Iraq.

For the period 7 October 2001 to 15 September 2009 (the latest date for which casualty data is available) 841 soldiers (Army personnel only) who are currently serving sustained injuries on operations in Afghanistan.

Please note that Service personnel may have deployed to both theatres of operation and therefore it is possible for an individual to have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan on separate occasions. Any such individual will have been counted once in both datasets.

The information supplied in this answer is a subset of that published on the MOD website on a fortnightly basis.

Mediterranean Region: Navy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy personnel have taken part in Operation Active Endeavour in the last two years. [293818]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of Royal Navy personnel who have taken part in Operation Active Endeavour in the last two years is approximately 3,600.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to improving helicopter support to front line services by *(a)* providing short refresher courses to recently retired personnel, *(b)* providing short refresher courses to crews serving in ground appointments, *(c)* taking flying-current crews from flying training appointments and *(d)* providing financial retention incentives to air crew. [294493]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The level of aircrew manning is currently sufficient to meet the tasks that they are required to undertake.

Aircrew who rejoin the services following retirement already undergo refresher training before taking up flying appointments, as do flying crew returning from non-flying assignments.

The proper distribution of flying crews between the flying training system and front line units is reviewed regularly. It is, of course, vital that the flying training system remains sufficiently manned to maintain the throughput of crews onto the frontline.

On financial retention incentives, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 430W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Military Attachés

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which UK embassies in the Middle East a defence attaché is deployed. [294485]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is a defence attaché deployed to the following UK embassies in the middle east:

Bahrain
Iraq
Kuwait
Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
United Arab Emirates
Yemen.

Parachute Regiment: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members there are of the Parachute Regiment; and how many of them are combat available in the parachute role. [294492]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 19 October 2009, there are a total of 1,076 members of the Parachute Regiment of which 676 are combat available in the parachute role.

The figures above are for the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Parachute Regiment and, include both officers and soldiers.

Combat available has been interpreted as personnel who are able to be deployed and are ready to parachute. This figure therefore excludes recruits arriving in the Battalion who have not yet completed their parachute course, those who are not jump trained and who are not fully effective to deploy.

I am withholding the information for 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Territorial Army

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the decision to reduce Territorial Army (TA) training on *(a)* the morale of members of the TA, *(b)* the ability of the TA to support the regular Army on operations and *(c)* retention rates in the TA. [293127]

Bill Rammell: This year is very challenging in resource terms, and success in Afghanistan must take priority. As such, the Army has directed that the regular forces and the reserves must focus available resources on supporting the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan, which means reducing activity levels elsewhere. All TA activity not directly in support of operations will therefore be stopped or reduced for the remainder of this financial year. This does not affect TA soldiers who have been or will be earmarked for deployment to Afghanistan. These individuals are getting and will continue to get the training that the Army considers necessary to prepare them for their deployment.

The Army recognises the potential impact on the morale of those whose opportunities to train will be reduced, and the possible consequent impact on TA retention. However, the current fiscal climate requires that we direct resources where they are most needed, and our priority remains the support of current operations, where the TA continues to make a vital contribution.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army reservists live in *(a)* Pembrokeshire and *(b)* Wales. [294324]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data on the UK residential location of members of the Territorial Army are not held centrally in databases of individual records, and it is therefore not possible to provide figures for the numbers of Territorial Army reservists living in Pembrokeshire or Wales.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to reduce levels of training of Territorial Army recruits. [293135]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* This year is very challenging in resource terms, and success in Afghanistan must take priority. As such, the Army has directed that the regular forces and the reserves must focus available resources on supporting the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan, which means reducing activity levels elsewhere. All TA activity not directly in support of operations will therefore be stopped or reduced for the remainder of this financial year. This does not affect TA soldiers who have been or will be earmarked for deployment to Afghanistan. Nor does it affect initial training for Territorial Army recruits.

JUSTICE

Criminal Justice System

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each age group entered the criminal justice system for the first time in each year since 1997. [294204]

Claire Ward: The requested figures are shown in the following table. Figures before 2000 have not been included as the available data are known to be incomplete before that date.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

First time entrants[1] to the criminal justice system, England and Wales, by age group, 2000-01 to 2008-09

Number of offenders

	Age group								
	10-14	*15-17*	*18-20*	*21-24*	*25-29*	*30-39*	*40-49*	*50 and over*	*Total*
2000-01	41,600	48,200	46,500	33,200	27,600	35,900	20,900	16,400	270,500
2001-02	40,600	48,400	43,900	34,000	27,400	37,300	22,000	16,600	270,100
2002-03	36,100	47,200	42,800	36,700	28,700	39,800	23,300	17,800	272,500
2003-04	38,300	49,800	42,800	38,300	29,100	42,000	25,400	18,800	284,600
2004-05	42,900	52,800	39,600	35,800	29,200	42,800	26,800	19,900	289,800
2005-06	48,700	58,400	42,500	39,600	33,300	47,600	31,200	22,500	323,800
2006-07	50,200	59,600	42,900	39,700	34,400	48,100	32,200	23,000	330,200
2007-08	44,400	56,000	42,000	[illegible]	34,700	47,500	32,900	24,000	320,700
2008-09[2]	n/a	n/a	38,000	[illegible]	33,100	43,600	30,300	22,700	n/a

[1] An offender is considered to be a first time entrant to the criminal jus [illegible] first occasion they receive either a conviction, a caution, a reprimand or a final warning as recorded on the police national computer.

[2] Figures for juvenile first time entrants for 2008-09 for England will be published in November by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Cybercrime

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to prevent people in prison issuing threats through the internet. [293655]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners are allowed only supervised access to the internet for educational purposes and this is limited to specific learning sites.

Prisons take a variety of measures to prevent unauthorised access to the internet by prisoners which will be mainly through use of illegally acquired mobile phones. The Government are determined to address the risks that mobile phones in prison present to security and to the safety of the public. This is a significant challenge given the advances in technology and our commitment to running decent and effective regimes. We have, though, made significant progress in implementing a strategy to tackle illicit mobile phones. This includes: minimising the number of mobile phones entering prisons; finding mobile phones that are smuggled into prisons; disrupting mobile phones that cannot be found.

In addition, the National Offender Management Service has an agreement with one of the leading internet social networking sites to ensure that any inappropriate material that may be posted by prisoners is removed as soon as it can be identified.

Employment and Support Allowance: Appeals

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average it has taken for appeals against refusal of employment and support allowance to be heard in the last 12 months. [293636]

Bridget Prentice: The first tier tribunal-social security and child support target is to bring 75 per cent. of appeals to hearing within 14 weeks of receipt. It has taken an average of 10.22 weeks for appeals against the refusal of employment and support allowance to be heard during the period 1 October 2008 and 30 September 2009. This time is calculated from receipt of the appeal by the Tribunals Service to hearing by the first tier tribunal-social security and child support. The Tribunals Service is unable to provide information on the length of time between the appeal being lodged with the Department for Work and Pensions and it being submitted to the Tribunals Service.

General Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of costs to local authorities of administrating a general election poll are refunded by central Government grant. [294370]

Mr. Wills: Returning officers are entitled to recover their charges in respect of services rendered or expenses incurred at parliamentary elections if they were necessarily rendered or incurred for the efficient and effective conduct of the election and they do not exceed the overall maximum recoverable amount specified in an Order made by the Secretary of State. Provision is made for this purpose from the consolidated fund.

Homicide

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility in each of the last five years; [294223]

(2) how many people who had pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility were being held in secure accommodation at each location on the latest date for which figures are available. [294225]

Claire Ward: The number of persons who pleaded guilty at the Crown court and were sentenced for manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, in England and Wales, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. These figures include offenders who were given an unrestricted hospital order, a restricted hospital order or an immediate custodial sentence.

The statistics given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Persons who pleaded guilty and sentenced at the Crown court for manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1, 2]

Offence: Manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility

S[illegible]te: Homicide Act 1957, section 2

			Sentence breakdown			
	Pleaded guilty	Total sentenced	Unrestricted hospital order[3]	Restricted hospital order[4]	Immediate custody	Otherwise dealt with
2003	19	19	9	1	9	—
2004	19	19	4	4	8	3
2005	19	19	3	6	8	2
2006	10	10	—	7	2	1
2007	19	19	1	12	6	—

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Unrestricted hospital order, under the Mental Health Act 1983, section 37(1).

[4] Restricted hospital order, under Mental health Act 1983, section 41.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Land: Registration

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the expansion of the programme of compulsory land registration; and if he will make a statement. [294023]

Mr. Wills: The creation of a comprehensive land register for England and Wales is one of Land Registry's strategic objectives. Over 70 per cent. of England and Wales, including most urban land, is now registered in about 21 million registered titles. The registered area has increased from 45 per cent. in 2004 when data on geographic coverage first became available. This growth is principally attributable to Land Registry's strategy of persuading landowners of the benefits of voluntarily first registration.

First registration of unregistered land is compulsory after certain specific trigger events, including, a sale, a first mortgage or a transfer on death. Two new trigger events, the appointment of a new trustee and the partition of land among trust beneficiaries, were added by the Land Registration Act 2002 (Amendment) Order 2008, which came into force on 6 April 2009. There are no plans at present to introduce any additional triggers.

Other potential trigger events and methods of compulsion were examined as part of the preparatory work for the 2008 Order but at that time were considered impracticable, due to their complexity, or inappropriate, because of the nature of the sanctions that would be required.

Legal Aid

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid from residents of *(a)* Devon, *(b)* East Devon constituency and *(c)* England there have been in each of the last five years. [291940]

Bridget Prentice: Applications for civil legal aid advice are made to individual providers, and we record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made. Applications for civil legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission. Not all applications are granted. The applications received for representation for the last five years in the requested areas is shown in the following table:

			Number
	East Devon	*Devon*	*England*
2004-05	327	3,430	180,591
2005-06	310	3,357	182,187
2006-07	277	3,019	177,309
2007-08	239	2,690	161,206
2008-09	218	2,899	171,492

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid there have been from residents of *(a)* Derbyshire, *(b)* Chesterfield constituency and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [293666]

Bridget Prentice: Applications for civil legal aid advice are made to individual providers, and we record the number of instances of advice provided, rather than the number of applications made. Applications for civil legal aid representation are made to the Legal Services Commission. Not all applications are granted. The applications received for representation for the last five years in the requested areas is as follows:

Financial years	*Chesterfield*	*Derbyshire*	*England*
2004-05	534	2,597	180,591
2005-06	607	2,930	182,187
2006-07	613	2,773	177,309
2007-08	618	2,564	161,206
2008-09	587	2,346	171,492

Legal Aid: Eligibility

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are used to determine eligibility for legal aid. [291939]

Bridget Prentice: There are different eligibility criteria for civil and criminal legal aid:

Eligibility for legal aid in civil matters depends on the client satisfying the relevant financial eligibility criteria, and the case must pass a merits test and be within the scope of the scheme. Those in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, guarantee state pension credit or income related employment support allowance automatically qualify financially for legal aid. Otherwise, they can obtain 'free' or non-contributory assistance, if they have a gross monthly income of less than £2,657, a monthly disposable income below £315 and disposable capital of £3,000 or less. If their monthly disposable income is between £316 and £733, or disposable capital between £3,000 and £8,000, they will be offered funding on the basis that they agree to pay contributions towards their legal costs. On 6 April 2009 we increased the financial eligibility limits for civil legal aid by 5 per cent. to their current level.

The merits test considers whether legal aid applicants have reasonable grounds for taking, defending or being a party to proceedings, and that it is reasonable, in the particular circumstances of the case, for legal aid to be granted.

Eligibility for legal aid in criminal trials depends on the defendant satisfying the 'Interests of Justice' test and the relevant financial eligibility criteria. Suspects being held at the police station as part of a criminal investigation are automatically entitled to legal advice, regardless of income; this may be provided on a 'face to face' basis under the police station duty solicitor scheme, or for less serious offences, via a national telephone helpline.

The income-based means test for defendants appearing before the magistrates court weights the applicant's gross annual income to reflect their family and household circumstances. If an applicant's weighted gross annual income exceeds £22,325, they are financially ineligible for a grant of representation; if it is £12,475 or less, they are financially eligible for a grant of representation. All applicants in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, or the guaranteed state pension credit are automatically deemed financially eligible, as are applicants under the age of 18.

For those applicants whose adjusted gross annual incomes fall between the two thresholds, a more detailed assessment of their income is carried out. After certain deductions are made, if the applicant's disposable income does not exceed £3,398, they will be financially eligible under the new scheme.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates courts have been closed in *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997. [293209]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows details of the magistrates court closures (broken down into *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas) which have taken place since 1997.

Number of magistrates courts closed in each year since 1997[1]

	Rural 75	*Rural 50*	*Significant rural*	*Other urban*	*Large urban*	*Major urban*	*Total number of courts closed*
1997	2	4	3	3	1	8	21
1998	12	4	1	3	2	3	25
1999	1	0	1	2	1	2	7
2000	8	1	0	2	0	2	13
2001	12	7	3	3	3	2	30
2002	5	0	2	0	0	0	7
2003	9	2	1	1	0	0	13
2004	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
2007	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Rural 80[2]	*Rural 50*	*Significant rural*	*Other urban*	*Large urban*	*Major urban*	*Total number of courts closed*
2009	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

[1] The rural constituency classification (introduced by the Rural Evidence Research Centre on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2006) has been used to define whether court closures took place in rural/urban areas. The classification divides constituencies into the following six categories:
Rural 75: Over 75 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements (including 207 large market towns)
Rural 50: Over 50 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements (including 207 large market towns)
Significant rural: More than 37,000 or between 26 per cent. and 50 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements.
Other urban: Fewer than 37,000 or less than 26 per cent. of the population live in rural settlements.
Large urban: A minimum of 50,000 or 50 per cent. of the population live in a large urban area.
Major urban: A minimum of 100,000 or 50 per cent. of the population live in a major urban area (i.e. over 750,000 of the population).
[2] The rural constituency classification (introduced by the Rural Evidence Research Centre on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) changed in April 2009 and one rural classification has changed from rural 75 to rural 80

Offenders: Mental Health

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate his Department has made of the number of offenders subject to a custodial sentence who have previously been given a conditional discharge; and what proportion of those offenders have been diagnosed with mental health problems. [293532]

Claire Ward: Out of 94,600 sentences of immediate custody in England and Wales in 2007, in the latest year for which figure are available, 52,200 offenders (55 per cent.) had on at least one pervious sentencing occasion received a conditional discharge. Information about the mental health of these offenders is not available.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

The figures represent a further breakdown of the criminal history statistics published in chapter 6 of "Sentencing Statistics 2007" which can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Prisoners: Location

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in prisons more than 50 miles from normal place of residence at the latest date for which figures are available. [294177]

Maria Eagle: As of 8 May 2009, there were 32,126 prisoners held in prisons more than 50 miles from their home area.

This figure includes male and female prisoners, those sentenced and on remand and adults, young offenders and juveniles.

All prisoners are asked for details of their home address on first reception to prison and on discharge from prison. Approximately 60 per cent. of prisoners are shown to have given a recognised address.

If no address is given, various proxies are used to determine distance from home, including next-of-kin address and committal court address.

Prisons: Parole Board for England and Wales

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving sentences of life imprisonment at HMP Standford Hill are waiting for an oral parole board hearing. [293962]

Bridget Prentice: There are four prisoners serving sentences of life imprisonment at HMP Standford Hill who are waiting for an oral parole board hearing.

Prisons: Politics

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent steps he has taken to tackle radicalisation in prisons; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such measures; [292613]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of trends in the level of radicalisation in prisons; and what evidence was used in making such assessments. [292614]

Mr. Straw: There is a range of continuing activity better to reduce the risks associated with violent extremism and radicalisation in prisons, as part of the wider programme of work being delivered by the National Offender Management Service to deal with these issues across prisons and probation services. Recent steps include: commencing the roll out of an awareness raising package across all prisons in England and Wales, building on the series of briefings, written material and training events that have already been delivered at both national and local level; strengthening arrangements to collect and share intelligence; and continuing to build upon a detail programme of research, trial and evaluations to develop intervention approaches for extremist offenders. This activity contributes directly to the Prevent objective in the Government's Contest strategy to reduce the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.

Systematic assessments of trends in the levels of violent extremism and radicalisation in prisons, based on intelligence gathering and analysis undertaken by prison staff and police, are undertaken on a regular basis. The nature and extent of the threat, and the effectiveness of measures to manage the associated risks are assessed as part of public service agreement 26

> "to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism"

which is classified and not reported on publicly.

Robbery: Young Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people aged *(a)* 10 to 12, *(b)* 13 to 15, *(c)* 16 to 17, *(d)* 18 to 20 and *(e)* 21 or more years old in each police force area were convicted of robbery in each year since 1997. [294178]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of persons found guilty of robbery, broken down by age and force, England and Wales, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Sexual Offences: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been given indefinite sentences for sexual offences committed when they were under the age of 18 years in each year since 2000. [294176]

Claire Ward: The available information is shown in the following table. The table relates to the age at sentence as the age at offence is not available centrally.

Number of indeterminate sentences for sexual offences, given to offenders aged under 18, since 2000

	All indeterminate[1]
2000	1
2001	0
2002	0
2003	1
2004	0
2005	4
2006	12
2007	10

[1] Detention for public protection and life sentences

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

The sentence of detention for public protection for serious offences committed by those under 18 was introduced in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and was commenced for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. The data are presented on the principal offence basis: where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty was imposed; where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Sexual Offences: Young Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Schedule 1 offenders there are; and how many of them committed the relevant offence when under the age of 18-years. [294150]

Maria Eagle: The term "Schedule 1 offenders" originates from the list of offences contained in Schedule 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. Following that Act, the term was informally extended to a range of offences in subsequent Acts, resulting in different definitions between Agencies. To resolve this, the Home Office issued guidance in 2005 and officially discontinued the term.

This information is therefore unavailable in the format requested.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cayman Islands: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government has spent on post-hurricane reconstruction efforts in the Cayman Islands since September 2008. [293304]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Government of the Cayman Islands did not request external assistance for the emergency period or for reconstruction. The United Kingdom has provided no further support to the emergency assistance provided by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Ruler and support to a study on the impacts of the hurricane by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC).

The Department for International Development is in regular contact with the Cayman Island Government and Governor's Office. Much progress has been made on reconstruction; housing repair is well under way, hotels have re-opened and all Government buildings, schools and hospitals are now functioning.

Consolidated Contractors Corporation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts Ministers and officials in his Department have had with the Consolidated Contractors Corporation (CCC Group) and its international offshoots in the last five years. [294378]

Mr. Michael Foster: There have been no formal meetings, communications or other contacts between Ministers of the Department for International Development and the Consolidated Contractors Corporation (CCC Group) and its international offshoots in the last five years. Similarly, our records do not indicate any meetings, communications or contacts with officials.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of procurement contracts his Department awarded to small businesses in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293236]

Mr. Michael Foster: The percentage of procurement contracts let by the Department for International Development (DFID) to small businesses during the requested period cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Developing Countries

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much his Department plans to spend on social protection programmes in developing countries *(a)* bilaterally and *(b)* through multilateral institutions in the next three years; [293972]

(2) how much his Department plans to spend on nutrition-related programmes in developing countries *(a)* bilaterally and *(b)* through multilateral institutions in the next three years; [293973]

(3) how much his Department plans to spend in support of maternal, newborn and child health in developing countries *(a)* bilaterally and *(b)* through multilateral institutions in the next three years. [293974]

Mr. Michael Foster: Latest information on the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid allocations by programme to 2010-11 were published in its 2009 annual report which is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

More detailed allocations are made by individual country programmes, or in the case of core funding to multilateral institutions by those organisations. As such aggregate projections by sector are not available.

Developing Countries: Debt

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to help developing countries to reduce their debt. [292563]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government have taken a strong lead on debt relief and are carefully monitoring the effect of the current financial crisis on debt levels of the poorest countries. Recent steps taken include:

> Support to the World Bank and IMF's review of the Debt Sustainability Framework. This is the main instrument for monitoring debt levels and guiding new borrowing and lending, and is used by the Multilateral Development Banks to determine assistance to the poorest countries.
>
> A call from the Chancellor at this year's IMF spring meetings for a temporary reduction in interest rates to zero for the IMF's concessional lending to low-income countries. This was agreed and will apply until December 2011.

Many countries are better off today because of international initiatives to reduce debt, in which the UK has played a lead role. Under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiatives, $117 billion (approx £74 billion) of debt relief has been agreed since 2000. 35 out of 40 eligible countries are now receiving debt relief under HIPC, and this year Burundi, Central African Republic and Haiti all completed the process and received irrevocable debt cancellation.

Global Environment Facility: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding the Government have contributed to the Global Environment Facility in each of the last 10 years. [293461]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is currently contributing towards the fourth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund. Our contributions are £35 million each year, totalling £140 million across the four years 2007-10.

Previously, the UK contributed a total of £118 million to the third replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund, averaging £29.5 million in each of the four years 2003-06. We contributed £85 million towards the second replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund across the four years 1999-02, averaging £21.25 million each year.

Overseas Aid: Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent support his Department has given to developing countries to develop *(a)* broadband, *(b)* wireless internet and *(c)* other internet capabilities. [293841]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has not recently given support to developing countries to develop broadband, wireless and other internet capabilities.

Overseas Territories: Climate Change

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the participation of the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre's Enhancing Capacity for Adaptation to Climate Change project. [293460]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Enhancing Capacity for Adaptation to Climate Change project is ongoing. Monitoring reports show progress is being made against each of the objectives—establishing climate change focal points and committees, building capacity, developing public education and outreach programmes, developing national strategies and sharing information.

Department for International Development officials participated in two of the project's workshops and reported that the project team were well qualified and experienced, there was strong stakeholder engagement, and a high level of awareness of climate change impacts among Government, non-government, business, and other organisations.

Additional feedback from the territories indicates that they welcome the opportunity to participate in this programme. They acknowledge it is ambitious, but remain committed to delivering the objectives.

Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what outcomes were reached at the conservation conference hosted by the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum held in June. [293296]

Mr. Michael Foster: The aim of the conference was to bring together representatives from Government, non-governmental organisations, academic, and other organisations working in the UK overseas territories and other small islands to promote co-operation and sharing of information and experiences on solving environmental problems. This will help meet obligations under international environment agreements and UK/Overseas Territories Environment Charters.

My hon. Friend, the Minister for Marine and Natural Environment, spoke at the conference and announced an additional £1.5 million over the next three years for biodiversity projects in the overseas territories.

The UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum will submit a final report on the conference shortly.

Pakistan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to those who were displaced from and are returning to the Swat district of Pakistan. [293857]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has so far provided £22 million for people displaced by the conflict in the North West Frontier Province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. These funds are being used by humanitarian agencies to meet critical needs of people displaced in camps and host communities. This support is providing vital assistance to those who have started to return home through the provision of shelter, protection, water, sanitation, food and medical assistance. The UK is also providing funding through the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office.

On 14 October the Prime Minister announced a further UK contribution of £10 million for early recovery programmes to help vulnerable communities affected by the conflict to start rebuilding their lives and to support them through the coming winter.

Vietnam: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department plans to send to victims of the recent flooding in Vietnam. [293842]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing to relief funding by the European Commission (16 per cent. of this is attributed to DFID). The European Commission has allocated €2 million for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In Vietnam, the funding is being used to support relief efforts by non-governmental organisations in the affected areas.

DFID is also supporting strategic programmes aimed at disaster risk reduction in Vietnam. This is implemented through support to the United Nations in Vietnam as well as the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery with the World Bank.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran's Nuclear Programme

14. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the development of Iran's nuclear programme; and if he will make a statement. [293915]

David Miliband: We remain extremely concerned about Iran's nuclear programme. In August the IAEA Director General reported that Iran had not suspended its enrichment activities contrary to the requirements of five UNSCRs and still refuses to answer questions about studies with a possible military dimension.

The fact that Iran has been covertly developing an enrichment facility near Qom, in breach of UN and IAEA obligations, casts further doubt on their peaceful intentions.

Afghanistan

15. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the new UK foreign policy strategy for Afghanistan. [293916]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As a top foreign policy priority, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary frequently discusses Afghanistan and Pakistan with his counterparts. Discussions regularly cover the strategy approach announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 869. There is broad international agreement on the importance of addressing the situation in both countries, and on the need to seek political solutions alongside military ones.

Trade Unions: Iraq

16. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on trade union rights in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [293917]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have supported, and will continue to do so, the efforts of all Iraqis to build trade unions across the workplace and free from government intervention, the rights to which are enshrined in their constitution. We have made clear to the Iraqi Government our view that the right to form free and fair unions is a fundamental right.

Gaza

17. **Mr. Slaughter:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure early consideration by the United Nations of the report of the United Nations fact finding mission on the Gaza conflict. [293918]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The report of the UN fact finding mission on the Gaza conflict has already been considered by the UN. It was discussed in an open meeting of the Security Council on 14 October 2009 and by a Special Session of the Human Rights Council on 15 and 16 October 2009. As we made clear in those discussions, while we have concerns about aspects of the report, there are serious issues remaining about both parties' conduct during Operation Cast Lead.

European Parliament

18. **Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government's work with political groups in the European Parliament. [293919]

Chris Bryant: Both Ministers and officials continue to engage effectively with the European Parliament at all levels in order to promote UK interests and secure the best outcomes for our citizens. The Government have a strategic plan for this engagement. Since June's European Parliament elections, we have averaged one ministerial visit in each week when the Parliament has been sitting.

Non-proliferation Treaty

19. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the 2010 non-proliferation treaty review conference. [293920]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses the 2010 NPT review conference regularly with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Mrs. Clinton said on 11 October 2009 after their most recent meeting that British leadership had been pivotal in the run up to the historic Security Council session on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament chaired by President Barack Obama on 24 September 2009.

West Bank

20. **David Cairns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United States Administration on the security situation in the West Bank. [293921]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton most recently on 11 October 2009. Their conversation focused on the need for all parties to exercise restraint and to calm tensions in Jerusalem, and the need to launch negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The UK and US work together to give strong support to the Palestinian Authority's work to improve the capability of and reform the Palestinian security forces. We commend the Palestinian Authority for the improvements it has made, which have delivered real changes in the lives of many on the West Bank.

EU Budget

21. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress towards reform of the EU budget; and if he will make a statement. [293922]

Chris Bryant: The Government remain committed to far-reaching reform of the EU budget refocusing it on jobs and growth; tackling climate change; and, ensuring security, stability and poverty reduction. We look forward to the publication of the European Commission's Budget Review White Paper, which will likely set out recommendations for the future of the budget. The Council will discuss these recommendations in late 2009 and 2010.

Macedonia

22. **Mr. Martlew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government are providing support to the Government of Macedonia in their application for membership of the European Union. [293923]

Chris Bryant: The UK strongly supports Macedonia's EU membership aspirations and welcomes the Commission's recent recommendation to open accession negotiations.

The Government co-operate with EU partners to encourage the required reforms in Macedonia. Alongside its contribution to financing programmes under the EU's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), the Government are providing bilateral support in 2009-10 of around £890,000.

UK projects include work designed to improve Macedonia's public administrative capacity, strengthen its Parliament and help fight corruption.

Economic Recovery: EU

23. **Mr. Plaskitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the co-ordination of policy on the EU's economic recovery with other EU member states. [293924]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friends the Chancellor and Foreign Secretary discuss the co-ordination of the EU's economic recovery regularly in meetings of the Cabinet and the National Economic Council.

Zimbabwe

24. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the progress of the Government of National Unity in Zimbabwe. [293925]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government of Zimbabwe have made some progress, most notably on the stabilisation of the economy. Progress on political reform has been slower. We continue to urge the Government of Zimbabwe to meet their commitments under the Global Political Agreements; notably to media, electoral, legislative, judicial and security sector reform, and to address the issue of the appointments of the Central Bank Governor, Attorney-General and Provincial Governors.

Bahrain

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest assessment is of the state of relations between the UK and the Government of Bahrain. [294486]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has a long-standing and strong relationship with Bahrain. But we are always considering ways in which we can make even stronger our political, defence, cultural and trade relations to mutual benefit.

Children: Kidnapping

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of children abducted from the UK in each of the last five years who are being held in Japan; and if he will make a statement. [294490]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of the following cases involving British children who have been abducted to Japan in the last five years.

	Number
2008-09	4
2007-08	11
2006-07	3
2005-06	3
2004-05	10

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the Government of Japan to sign the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction; and if he will make a statement. [294491]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I welcomed the Japanese Government's announcement last year that it was considering ratifying the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. We have made frequent representations to the Japanese Government on the issue.

On 16 October 2009 our ambassador took part with representatives of a number of other embassies in a joint demarche on Japanese Justice Minister Chiba, calling on Japan to accede to the Convention. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary encouraged Japan to sign the Convention when he met the Japanese Foreign Secretary Okada on 22 September 2009. My Noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Lord Mandelson also raised this issue with the Japanese Prime Minister on 5 October 2009. Our embassy in Tokyo has been regularly taking joint action together with other embassies, including the Canadian, French, US and Italian embassies.

Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of *(a)* Cyprus, *(b)* Greece and *(c)* Turkey on cancelling of the annual military exercises conducted in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293709]

Chris Bryant: Both the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leadership announced on 13 October 2009 the cancellation of the Toros and Nikiforos military exercises respectively. The Government applauds this decision which is a positive development and shows what can be achieved through trust and co-operation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for progress towards a settlement in Cyprus of the policy of the new PASOK Government in Greece on such a settlement; and if he will make a statement. [R] [293720]

Chris Bryant: We believe that the new Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) Government in Greece will be supportive of the two leaders' efforts to achieve a settlement. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Cyprus with Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou on 15 October 2009 and both reiterated their support for the settlement process.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress on the negotiations towards a settlement in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [R] [293723]

Chris Bryant: The leaders of the two communities have shown a strong commitment to the Cyprus talks process. We welcome their recent decision to meet more regularly and urge both leaders to intensify their efforts to ensure this unique opportunity is not missed.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with international partners on the funding of a possible settlement in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293725]

Chris Bryant: The Government have had no recent discussions with international partners on the funding of a possible settlement. This is an important issue which will need to be addressed as the talks progress.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of progress in the opening of the Limnitis crossing point in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293726]

Chris Bryant: We welcome the agreement of the leaders of the two communities to open the Limnitis crossing point and have been following subsequent developments closely. We consider this initiative to be a valuable contribution to the building of mutual trust between the two sides.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the Famagusta Mayors' proposals to restore the historic walls of Famagusta and to conduct a survey of the work required to restore the infrastructure of Varosha; and if he will make a statement. [293727]

Chris Bryant: We attach importance to the restoration of historic monuments, including the historic walls of Famagusta. We believe that work, both to restore Famagusta and to plan for eventual resettlement of Varosha, would be useful confidence building measures.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on the planned erection and unveiling of a memorial in Northern Cyprus to British people killed in the Cyprus war of independence; and if he will make a statement. [293728]

Chris Bryant: This is an independent initiative undertaken by the British Cyprus Veterans Association to commemorate the British servicemen who died in the 1950s. The memorial will be unveiled on 8 November 2009.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent progress in the remaining phases of the opening of the Ledra Street crossing point in Nicosia; and if he will make a statement. [293732]

Chris Bryant: We are following this issue closely and stand ready to support the UN's efforts to achieve agreement.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made by the UN committee on missing persons in Cyprus in recovering and identifying remains of missing persons; and if he will make a statement. [293734]

Chris Bryant: The UN committee on missing persons reported that, as of 15 October 2009, the remains of 570 people had been exhumed from different burial sites across the island. Of these, the remains of 179 individuals had been identified and returned to their families, of which 135 were Greek Cypriots and 44 Turkish Cypriots.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what grants the UK has given to the UN missing persons committee in Cyprus since its inception; if he will make an assessment of the merits of providing a further grant to support that committee's work; and if he will make a statement. [293735]

Chris Bryant: The UK has donated a total of $159,298 to the UN committee on missing persons since its inception. In August 2009, the European Commission (EC) allocated €2 million in funding to the committee from the EC Aid Regulation for the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community. This will provide for half of the yearly needs of the committee for missing persons for the next 24 months. The Government have no plans for further donations.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an estimate of the value of the cessation of the division in Cyprus in terms of *(a)* gross domestic product for the island and *(b)* income per capita; and if he will make a statement. [293736]

Chris Bryant: The Government have funded independent research by the International Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO) into the economic benefits of a solution. Their report, "The Day After", found that Cypriots stand to gain an additional €1.8 billion per year in recurring benefits from a solution to the Cyprus problem. This translates into approximately €5,500 for every family every year. These were deliberately conservative estimates.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely consequences of the withdrawal of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus in the absence of a settlement in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293738]

Chris Bryant: It is for the UN to produce its own independent assessment of the impact of any changes.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the European Commission on the co-ordination of the consideration of bids for funding for the Nicosia Master Plan for projects in the buffer zone in respect of *(a)* south and *(b)* north Nicosia being considered by the EU Directorate General for (i) Regional Policy and (ii) Enlargement; and if he will make a statement. [293743]

Chris Bryant: This is a matter for the European Commission and the municipalities concerned. We are not involved in these discussions.

Cyprus: British Nationality

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of British nationals resident in Cyprus *(a)* north and *(b)* south of the Green Line; and if he will make a statement. [293741]

Chris Bryant: We do not have precise figures for the number of British nationals resident in Cyprus. However, we estimate that there are approximately 60,000 British nationals resident in the south of Cyprus and 7,000 British nationals resident in the north of Cyprus. We estimate that approximately half are dual British-Cypriot nationals.

Cyprus: Politics and Government

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of the *(a)* hacking of the e-mails of the UN special representative in Cyprus and *(b)* publication of those e-mails in Phileleftheros newspaper; and if he will make a statement. [293724]

Chris Bryant: The Government are aware of the theft of UN documents and their subsequent publication in various newspapers. We continue to have every confidence in the UN Good Offices Mission and the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor, Alexander Downer.

Northern Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of the total compensation paid by the Immovable Property Commission in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [R] [293711]

Chris Bryant: According to recent figures, the Immovable Property Commission has over the past three years paid close to £35 million in compensation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of allegations of Turkish Army outlets undercutting prices charged by Turkish Cypriot businesses in respect of the sale of consumer goods in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [R] [293712]

Chris Bryant: We have received no reports on this matter.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Turkish and *(b)* Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus troops in Northern Cyprus based on information from (i) Turkey, (ii) Cyprus, (iii) the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and (iv) the UK; and if he will make a statement. [R] [293714]

Chris Bryant: The Government have no estimate of the number of Turkish or Turkish Cypriot armed forces in the north of Cyprus. There are no troops from the Republic of Cyprus, UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus or from the UK in the north of Cyprus.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the disbursement of the €259 million package of EU assistance to Northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293729]

Chris Bryant: By the end of September 2009, the Commission had contracted €133.9 million (52 per cent. of the overall programme) and endorsed €45.5 million for payment (18 per cent. of the programme). Tangible projects such as providing modern equipment to farmers, funding scholarships for students, improving traffic safety and replacing asbestos water pipes have already started and are making a real difference to the lives of ordinary Turkish Cypriots.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which projects *(a)* contracted and *(b)* completed in Northern Cyprus have been funded from the 259 million euro of EU provided aid; what the value of each project is; and if he will make a statement. [293730]

Chris Bryant: Information on the projects funded by the Financial Aid Regulation can be found on the European Commissions website:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/turkish_cypriot_community/index_en.htm

Turkey

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Turkey on permission for UN Committees on Missing Persons teams to work in areas under Turkish army control; and if he will make a statement. [293733]

Chris Bryant: The Government have consistently supported resolutions by the Committee of Ministers at the Council of Europe urging the Turkish authorities to take additional measures to allow effective investigations into the fate of missing persons, in particular by granting the UN committee on missing person's access to all relevant information and areas.

Turkey: Northern Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the financial subsidies given by the government of Turkey to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293740]

Chris Bryant: The Government do not hold independent figures, however, in a speech given on 4 October 2009, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan estimated that between 2003 and 2009, an average of $523 million per year, and in 2009 $815 million of aid was provided to the north of Cyprus.

Turkey: Varnava

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policy of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber in the case of Varnava and others v. Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [293742]

Chris Bryant: The Government have made no such assessment but will continue to call on both sides to release all information in relation to the tragic case of the missing in Cyprus, and will also continue to support the good work of the UN Committee on Missing Persons.

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the objectives are of UK foreign policy to the United Arab Emirates. [294502]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK aims to strengthen relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in all fields to our mutual benefit.

We work closely with the UAE to promote support for enhanced regional and global security we aim to improve cultural, sporting and scientific cooperation including supporting the creation and promotion of large scale renewable energy programmes by the UAE.

Our work also aims to support British citizens in the UAE and to foster effective trade and economic cooperation that will further enhance links between British and Emirati businesses to operate successfully.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been received gross in council tax receipts in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms by each local authority in England in each year since 1997-98. [293324]

Barbara Follett: A table will be placed in the Library containing details of the gross council tax receipts collected by each local authority in England in each year since 1998 -99 in both cash and real terms.

The data are taken from the Quarterly Return of Council Tax and Non-domestic rates returns completed annually by all billing authorities in England and the real terms data are given at 2008-09 prices.

Council Housing: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to respond to the points raised by the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam during the summer recess adjournment debate on 21 July 2009, *Official Report,* columns 837-38; and if he will make a statement. [293267]

Mr. Ian Austin: On 17 July, the Secretary of State announced as part of the Housing Pledge that over this year and next Government will be investing a further £1.5 billion to build an extra 20,000 new affordable homes for rent and low cost sale.

As a consequence, £150 million has been reprioritised from the Decent Homes programme in 2010-11, to fund the Pledge initiative to contribute to the building of these new homes. That means the Government are spending more on housing this year.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish updated data on the number of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists; and if he will make a statement. [293415]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities report the number of households on their housing waiting lists on the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). This information will be published in a statistical release, 'Local Authority Housing Statistics, England 2008/09: HSSA and BPSA Statistical Release', which has been pre-announced for publication on the United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) publication hub for November/December 2009.

Council Tax

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in each local authority district are in council tax band *(a)* A and *(b)* B. [294495]

Barbara Follett: A table has been placed in the Library giving details of the number of properties in each billing authority in England that are in council tax Band A and Band B.

The data are as at 29 March 2009 and are supplied to Communities and Local Government by the Valuation Office Agency.

The data are also available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/dwellingsvaluationlist/

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances the Valuation Office Agency will review the council tax banding of a dwelling upon the request of an occupier; and what the Agency's policy is on whether it will review a banding if the current occupier has resided in the dwelling for more than six months. [293348]

Barbara Follett: A review will normally be initiated, irrespective of duration of residence, in circumstances where the occupier provides information to suggest that the banding might be inaccurate.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings have had their property attributes updated by the Valuation Office Agency as a result of data obtained from the Rightmove portal in the last year for which figures are available. [293370]

Barbara Follett: A total of 64,014 dwellings have had their property attributes updated by the Valuation Office Agency as a result of data obtained from the Rightmove portal during the period 16 October 2008 to 30 September 2009.

Rightmove data are used routinely by VOA staff in the course of considering approximately 30,000 proposals/appeals and over 450,000 cases annually in respect of maintaining current council tax valuation lists. This provides quality assurance to ensure information about properties is correct and, ultimately, that taxpayers are asked to pay the right amount of tax. Rightmove also alleviates the need to inspect substantial numbers of properties thus minimising inconvenience to taxpayers. The use of Rightmove data more often than not results in no change to property attribute data.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code, broken down by (i) individual type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) number of floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation code, in the local authority area of (A) King's Lynn and West Norfolk and (B) Broadland according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [293896]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwellinghouse code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, will be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in Forest of Dean district are recorded with each individual *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code, including each code for (i) type, (ii) number of rooms, (iii) number of bedrooms, (iv) number of bathrooms, (v) number of floors, (vi) floor level, (vii) parking, (viii) garaging, (ix) conservatory type, (x) age, (xi) outbuilding and (xii) modernisation, according to electronic records held by the Valuation Office Agency. [294497]

Barbara Follett: The number of properties with each individual dwellinghouse code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Dismissal

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff have *(a)* been dismissed and *(b)* had their contract terminated by his Department in each of the last five years; what the reason was in each case; and what the severance costs in relation to (i) dismissal and (ii) contract termination were in each such year. [290581]

Mr. Malik: The number of staff that have been dismissed or had their contract terminated over the last five years cannot be released due to reasons of confidentiality.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 16 July 2009, *Official Report,* column 656W, on Tony Clements, whether Mr Clements was a candidate selected to stand by a political party at a general election on the date of his appointment, 29 June 2009. [293538]

Barbara Follett: Mr. Clements was not a parliamentary candidate on the date of his appointment.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessors spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293328]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*First class rail (£)*
2007-08	406.232
2008-09	419.249
2009-10 (to date September)	142,473

The figures shown in the table came from the Department's travel suppliers but it should be noted that staff may also purchase rail tickets directly from stations or through other suppliers. Identifying first class rail travel expenditure from these sources could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Eco-towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on the eco-town programme since its inception. [293252]

John Healey: The Department's spend for developing the eco-towns programme, including communications-related activity form part of the Department's running costs which are set out in the departmental annual report 2009.

Fire Engines: Sales

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister took the decision to dispose of the Green Goddess fire engines used to provide emergency fire cover. [293367]

Mr. Malik: The decision to dispose of the Green Goddess fleet was taken by the Government. Green Goddesses no longer offered the most flexible and efficient means of delivering emergency fire cover. In addition the Department provided 46 high volume pumps to the fire and rescue service which removed the need for a reserve pumping capacity. The National Framework for the fire and rescue service makes it clear that fire and rescue authorities are responsible for the supply of all necessary vehicles and equipment.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of increasing the personal search fee for the local land charges register on the cost of a home information pack. [292556]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice carried out an assessment of the effect of increasing the personal search fee for the local land charges register—see the impact assessment in the post-consultation report "Local Authority Property Search Services" published by the Ministry of Justice on 16 September 2009. This stated that the increased cost was likely to be passed on by personal search companies to their customers. If this happens it may lead to an increase in the cost of home information packs in England. However, this is a matter for the market and the Government have no role in this. Copies of the report are already available in the Library.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the publication of the results of the second stage of his Department's review on the extent and effect of housing development on garden land. [293263]

Mr. Ian Austin: Our intention is to make a further announcement before Parliament and publish the findings of the review together with the evidence shortly.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local planning authorities responded to the Government's review on the extent and impact of housing development on garden land; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such response. [293264]

Mr. Ian Austin: There were 127 detailed responses from local planning authorities to stage 1 of the Review of Evidence. I will make a further announcement before Parliament and my Department will publish the findings of the review together with the evidence shortly. These will all be placed in the Library.

Housing: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role Ordnance Survey has in the geo-referencing of the property database held by the Valuation Office Agency. [29325[illegible]

Mr. Ian Austin: Ordnance Survey and the Valuation Office Agency have been working together to align their spatial address databases. Through the Pan Government Agreement, the Valuation Office Agency currently receives the Ordnance Survey's ADDRESS-POINT product. It will shortly receive Ordnance Survey's latest spatial addressing product OS MasterMap Address Layer 2.

Housing: Public Consultation

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the spending of grants provided for tenant participation in local housing authorities in each of the last three years. [293493]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Tenant Empowerment Programme (TEP) is a grant programme funded by Communities and Local Government and administered by the Tenant Services Authority. It enables tenants living in social housing to access independent advice, training and information directly. This helps them to challenge, influence or control how housing services are delivered to their communities. It does not fund landlords to undertake mainstream tenant participation which is core housing management activity.

The last internal evaluation of the TEP programme occurred in 2006. We are currently re-examining its scope and governance in light of the new institutional landscape for social housing.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department has allocated to tenant participation in local housing authorities in each of the last three years. [293494]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Tenant Empowerment Programme supports tenants living in social housing to access information and training as well as enabling tenant groups to explore and undertake management of their homes. Grant is not paid directly to local authorities but rather to national, regional, and local tenant organisations and training providers working across all social housing providers.

Grant allocations for TEP were:

2007-08: £2.6 million

2008-09: £3.14 million

2009-10: £3.14 million.

Housing: Regeneration

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the review of the allocations to Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders; and what funding has been allocated to date in each year in each Pathfinder during the current Comprehensive Spending Review period. [293183]

John Healey: Funding allocations for HMR pathfinders during the current CSR period are given in the following table. The 2009-10 figures include £311 million allocated in March 2009 and a further £35 million which I announced in July 2009 and which was based on strong progress. Figures for 2010-11 are indicative.

£ million

HMR pathfinder	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
Birmingham Sandwell	25	19	11
East Lancashire	52	50	48
Hull and East Riding	30	29	28
Manchester Salford	52	46	42
Merseyside	54	51	47
Newcastle Gateshead	34	32	29
North Staffordshire	40	38	36
Oldham Rochdale	32	30	28
South Yorkshire	46	38	31
Tees Valley	13	11	10
West Cumbria	3	2	1
Total	381	346	311

[1] Indicative allocation.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances a proposal submitted to the Valuation Office Agency to reduce the banding of a dwelling is *(a)* considered by the agency alone and *(b)* referred to the Valuation Tribunal Service. [293106]

Barbara Follett: All proposals must be submitted to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), who will issue a decision on each proposal. A proposal is considered by the VOA alone unless the decision is appealed to the independent Valuation Tribunal by the taxpayer or any other party who, by law, is in a position to make such an appeal (e.g. the owner if not also the taxpayer).

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations there are on property owners to respond to requests from the Valuation Office Agency to complete questionnaires gathering information for the purposes of property valuation. [293320]

Barbara Follett: For domestic property questionnaires are issued to taxpayers so that they may voluntarily supply information that would otherwise have to be obtained by other means, such as an inspection. Using the questionnaires reduces the need to inspect, minimises the inconvenience to the taxpayer and enables the VOA to deal effectively and speedily with taxpayers' enquiries.

While, under section 27 of the Local Government Act 1992, the VOA can require an owner or occupier to supply information that will assist in maintaining council tax valuation lists, the questionnaires are not issued to taxpayers using these powers.

LLM Communications

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1662W, on LLM Communications, for what reasons the Department paid LLM Communications directly. [293250]

John Healey: In 2006 the Campaign for More and Better Homes (CMBH) approached the Department seeking funding for a series of regional housing debates. It was agreed with CMBH that LLM Communications would be engaged to support this work and CLG engaged LLM on behalf of the partnership.

Lobbying

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to its *(a)* special advisers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* policy advisers on 12 month contracts on meetings with lobbyists; and whether central records are kept of any such meetings. [293003]

Barbara Follett: Special advisers meet many people as part of the process of policy development and analysis. All such contacts are conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code, the Civil Service Code, the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and Guidance for Civil Servants: Contacts with Lobbyists:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil_service/lobbyists.aspx

In addition guidance on contact with lobbyists is provided to all civil servants through the staff handbook which is available on the Department's intranet.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive funding scheme funding has been reduced to £50 million for 2010-11; and whether the funds previously allocated to the programme are to be transferred to another programme. [293259]

Barbara Follett: LABGI funding for 2010-11 was reduced from £100 million to £50 million as part of a review of Government spending priorities in early 2009 in light of the economic downturn.

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of progress in the operation of two-tier pathfinders; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report by the Office for Public Management consultancy, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Cardiff Business School on two-tier pathfinders. [293358]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My officials are currently reviewing progress on two-tier innovation with the four pathfinders and other councils. In the light of this we will be considering how best to encourage and facilitate improved two-tier working, particularly in the context of the Total Place initiative. The research contractors are still finalising the qualitative report and associated documents from the long-term evaluation of two-tier pathfinders and new unitary authorities. We anticipate this will be published early in the new year and will place a copy in the House Library.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the underlying wage data (the ASHE Dataset) used as the basis of the calculation for the area cost adjustment for the most recent three years. [293537]

Barbara Follett: Information contained in the ASHE data is collected by ONS under the Statistics of Trade Act (1947), and is regarded as confidential. It is therefore not possible to make the ASHE dataset available in the Library.

Local Government: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate his Department has made of the number of local authorities which publish a weekly municipal newspaper. [293161]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My Department has made no estimate of the number of local authorities that issue publicity in the form of a weekly newsletter or freesheet.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations responded to his Department's consultation on the Code of Conduct on Local Authority Publicity. [293162]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have arranged for a list of the over 300 people and organisations who responded to the consultation on the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity to be placed in the Library. We intend to publish a summary of consultees' comments by the end of the year.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1007W, on mortgages: Government assistance, which lenders are participating in the Homeowner's Mortgage Support Scheme; how many borrowers are participating in the scheme with each lender; and how much funding has been made available in respect of each lender. [289897]

John Healey: A full list of lenders participating in the scheme is available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/Keepingyourhomeevictionsandhomelessness/Mortgagesandrepossessions/DG_177637

The following lenders have recently joined the scheme: Bank of Ireland (including Bristol and West and the Post Office) and Kensington Mortgages on 1 October; and Basinghall Finance on 8 October.

A maximum guaranteed amount is set for each participating lender. This is based on market share information and is commercially confidential.

The Department plans to publish information in December on the number of households who have been helped through Homeowners Mortgage Support.

Muslim Council of Britain

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates Ministers in his Department have met representatives of the Muslim Council of Britain in the last 12 months. [294631]

Mr. Malik: The former Communities Minister, now the Minister of State, Department for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan), chaired a meeting of the Faith Communities Consultative Council on 11 November 2008 which was attended by a representative of the Muslim Council of Britain. My hon. Friend also held meetings with the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) Steering Group on 2 December 2008, 15 January 2009, 4 March, and 22 April 2009 which were attended by representatives of the Muslim Council of Britain. In addition my hon. Friend met representatives from the Muslim Council of Britain in a separate meeting on 2 December 2008.

The former Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the former Communities Minister attended a meeting hosted by the Prime Minister on 25 November 2008 at which representatives of the Muslim Council of Britain were present.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research projects the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit is carrying out; and if he will make a statement. [292351]

Mr. Ian Austin: Part of the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit's remit is to commission research in support of building an evidence base to advise Government and other stakeholders on the implications of housing supply on affordability. Since its launch it has developed and delivered a focused research programme exploring specific aspects of the housing supply and affordability problem from an independent perspective, with the aim of engaging stakeholders and informing the development of housing supply policy and practice. This programme of research activity is ongoing, and the unit is currently carrying out the following projects:

1. The Geography of Housing Market Areas in England: Implications for Analysis, Modelling and Policy.
2. Developing sub-regional or cross regional models of housing markets supply and affordability in England—proposal for feasibility studies.
3. The effect of supply constraints on housing costs.
4. An empirical investigation of planning delay and its impact on housing supply.
5. The Implications of Housing Type, Size, Mix and Density.
6. Mortgage possessions in the UK: a regional and national analysis.
7. The need for market and affordable housing.
8. House Prices and Cohort Home Ownership.
9. A review of European Planning Systems.

National Housing and Planning Advice Unit: Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the National Housing and Planning Advice unit spent on staff costs in each of the last three years. [292485]

Mr. Ian Austin: The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit was first set up in October 2006, had a fully operational team by March 2007 and was officially launched in June 2007. It is a small team of civil servants (there are currently 13 staff in post) whose work is shaped and steered by an expert board. The unit's remit is national, and its prime objective is to develop a strong and reliable evidence base on which to provide independent advice to Government and other stakeholders about the impact of planning proposals on affordability. In supporting this objective, it has provided comprehensive advice on housing supply numbers to be tested in the planning process, developed and delivered a focused research programme, and delivered affordability training events for stakeholders, with the aim of raising awareness of the affordability problem.

The unit spent the following on staff costs[1] in each of the last three years.

	£
October 2006 to March 2007	[1]68,490
April 2007 to March 2008	578,968
April 2008 to March 2009	606,212

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[1] Staff costs are salaries of permanent staff, including pension and national insurance contributions. They do not include board fees, or salary costs of temporary staff.

	£
April 2009 to Current[2]	330,688

[1] This amount accounts for the six-month set-up period for the unit. For the first five months of this period, the unit had only one member of staff—it's chief executive, who was setting up the unit during this period, with other staff members joining the unit during February and March 2007. The £68,490 quoted applies therefore to only 1.42 full-time equivalent staff years. For the following years, the salary costs quoted relate to the full team (which equates to 12-13 staff years).

[2] To end of September 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of unpaid business rates *(a)* uncollected and *(b)* written off in each of the last five years in England. [293354]

Barbara Follett: The amount of business rates, in £ million, not collected within the year to which it relates for 2004-05 to 2008-09 is given in the following table.

	£ million
2004-05	261
2005-06	289
2006-07	229
2007-08	215
2008-09	423

Collection of non-domestic rates continues after the year to which it relates has ended so the final amount not collected for the year will be lower than that shown in the table.

This information is available in Table 3 of the statistical releases Collection Rates for Council Tax and Non-domestic Rates in England that are available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/counciltax/collectionrates/

Estimates of the amount of business rates (in £ million) written off each year in the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 are given in the following table.

	£ million
2003-04	818
2004-05	779
2005-06	714
2006-07	579
2007-08	759

Data for 2008-09 will not be available until spring 2010.

This information is published annually in Table 2.3k of Local Government Financial Statistics England No 19 2009 that is available on the Communities and Local Government website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/localgovernmentfinance/statistics

The data are taken from the Quarterly Return on Collection of Council Tax and Non-domestic Rates return (QRC4) and the national non-domestic rates return (NNDR3) that are completed annually by all billing authorities in England.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firms eligible for small business rate relief were not claiming it on the latest date for which figures are available. [293369]

Barbara Follett: Data are not currently available on the number of businesses eligible for Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR). We asked local authorities to estimate the numbers of businesses that were eligible for SBRR in the annual national non-domestic rate return. We are examining these data to assess their quality before making a decision about whether they are suitable for publication. Meanwhile, we are working to see if we can establish an estimate of the number of businesses eligible for SBRR using previous research in this area and so assess the level of take-up.

The number of properties reported by local authorities as claiming SBRR as at December 31 2006 was 392,000. Local authorities also reported that they had granted £997 million in SBRR between April 1 2005 and March 31 2009. They expect to grant a further £306 million in 2009-10.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 767-68W, on the Crossrail line: finance, what information his Department holds on the likely *(a)* start date and *(b)* end date of the supplementary business rate in London. [293226]

Barbara Follett: The Department's understanding is that the Mayor of London intends *(a)* to start levying a business rate supplement (BRS) to support the funding of the Crossrail project from April 2010 and that *(b)* dependent on the future conditions of the financial markets which will facilitate the borrowing that the BRS will support, that the London Crossrail BRS will run for between 24 and 30 years.

The Mayor of London's plans are set out in his Crossrail BRS prospectus, published on July 30 2009 for consultation. The Business Rate Supplements Act 2009 requires that any revision to the prospectus would have to be consulted on.

Planning Permission

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications were made in each district and single-tier authority in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and how many and what proportion of these were referred to planning inspectors for decision in the case of each district or single-tier authority. [293804]

Mr. Ian Austin: The number of planning applications received for each district or single-tier authority in England in 2007-08 is published in table 1.7 from the annual Development Control Statistics, which can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/developmentcontrol200708

Information on the number of planning applications referred to planning inspectors is published by the Planning Inspectorate but is not disaggregated by local authority.

Playing Fields: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance has been produced by his Department on using *(a)* green belt, *(b)* countryside and *(c)* open space for use as playing fields in the last three years. [293344]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning guidance on playing fields is contained in Planning Policy Guidance note 17—"Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation", which was published in 2002. No new planning guidance on playing fields has been issued since then.

Public Sector Relocation Independent Review

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use has been made of the dataset of revaluations produced for the Lyons Review by the Valuation Office Agency since the conclusion of the review; and which public bodies have access to the dataset. [293261]

Barbara Follett: No revaluations took place for the Lyons review. A number of datasets containing address information, attribute data and value estimates were provided to the review team during the period of their review. The data were provided to the Lyons review team expressly for their use only.

The Valuation Office Agency has made no use of these datasets since the conclusion of the review.

No other public bodies have access to this information.

Regional Development Agencies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date regional development agencies will commence their roles as regional planning bodies. [293345]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are no proposals for regional development agencies to become regional planning bodies.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on the decision to reduce Decent Homes funding; and if he will make a statement. [293101]

Mr. Ian Austin: Following the Housing Pledge announcement of 17 July 2009 the Department has thus far received around 34 representations. The representations were from Members of this House and representatives of local authorities.

Starbucks: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals relating to the establishment of Starbucks coffee shops have been considered by the Planning Inspectorate in the last 24 months. [293254]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Planning Inspectorate has considered eight planning appeals by the Starbucks Coffee company in the two-year period from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2009. Of these, five appeals were allowed and three dismissed.

Tony Clements

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Mr Tony Clements played a role in drafting the letter sent by the Minister for Housing and Planning to the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition dated 28 July 2009. [293248]

Barbara Follett: Tony Clements had no role in drafting the letter sent by the Minister for Housing and Planning to the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition dated 28 July 2009.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the power contained in section 79, paragraph 3 of Schedule 6 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 has been used since 1997; on how many of those occasions his Department and its predecessors has not accepted in full the Planning Inspector's report and recommendations; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by his Department on the exercise of such discretion. [293531]

Mr. Ian Austin: Since April 1997, the Secretary of State has used the power mentioned (to recover planning appeals for determination by Secretary of State) on a total of 1,301 occasions. Since April 2002, the Secretary of State has disagreed with the Inspector's recommendation on a total of 76 planning appeals. This information was not routinely collected before 2002.

A written ministerial statement setting out the revised criteria for the recovery of appeals was made on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 43-44WS.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what level of grant aid was provided to each local authority for improving Gypsy and Traveller sites in each of the last five years; and what the relevant outturn expenditure was by each authority in each year. [293490]

Mr. Malik: Grant for refurbishing existing and building new Gypsy and Traveller sites was paid through the Gypsy Site Refurbishment Grant up to and including financial year 2005-06 and since 2006-07 has been paid through the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant.

The level of grant paid to each local authority by the Department for Communities and Local Government in financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09 has been placed in the Library. The Department does not hold records of the outturn expenditure by local authorities following these grant awards in financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09.

The Homes and Communities Agency is responsible for paying the Gypsy and Traveller Site Grant in the current financial year 2009-10. The agency has received bids for grant funding, but no payments have yet been made to local authorities.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the spending of grants provided to local authorities to improve Gypsy and Traveller sites in the last three years. [293491]

Mr. Malik: The Department has not carried out any formal review of effectiveness of the Gypsy and Traveller site grant in the last three years. From 2006-07 The process through which successful schemes were recommended was changed. Gypsy and Traveller site grant from this point formed part of the regional housing pot, with recommendations for successful schemes being made by Regional Assemblies. This helped to ensure that local knowledge about the ability of authorities to deliver schemes of this nature was better taken into account.

Bids were assessed, in a competitive process, against published bidding guidance centrally and analysed by independent consultants to assist Regional Assemblies in assessing schemes. The evaluation assessed bids against the following key criteria:

Does the scheme meet a clearly assessed need

Does the scheme offer value for money

Is the site sustainable

Can the scheme be delivered to time and to budget

Since April 2009, administration of the Gypsy and Traveller site grant has transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency who will be paying grant under their own new powers and monitoring regime.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has received any *(a)* letters and *(b)* other communication requesting anonymity of representation in planning application cases for Gypsy and Traveller pitches or sites in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [294369]

Mr. Malik: The Department has not received any letters or other communications in the last six months requesting anonymity of representations in planning application cases for Gypsy and Traveller pitches or sites.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the Valuation Office Agency's domestic property attribute data has been digitised; what the targets for full digitisation are; and what the total cost of the digitisation project is. [293256]

Barbara Follett: All of the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) domestic property attribute data are digitised.

For the cost for digitising the VOAs property attribute data, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 268W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Minister has responsibility for the security of data held on the ContactPoint database. [293545]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* Baroness Morgan of Drefelin is responsible for ContactPoint at a ministerial level.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) with reference to page 14 of the Ofsted report Learning lessons from serious case reviews: year 2, how many of the 38 deaths arising from homicides were *(a)* reported in serious case reviews that were inadequate in each local authority and *(b)* of children known to social services at the time of the incident; [294637]

(2) what the executive summary titles are of the 173 serious case reviews examined in preparation of the Ofsted report entitled Learning lessons from serious case reviews: year 2. [294638]

Dawn Primarolo: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies can be found as follows.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response. (UIN 294637)

In the recently published report "Learning lessons, taking action: Year 2", Ofsted reported that between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009, Ofsted received 174 notifications of deaths of children where abuse was or was suspected to have been a factor. This figure included 38 deaths arising from homicide. Interrogation of data relating to these 38 deaths of children has identified that, to date, 10 of these notifications have resulted in serious case reviews that have been received and evaluated by Ofsted. The 10 reviews relate to 15 children. Four reviews were judged good, four adequate and two were inadequate.

Of the 15 children concerned, three were on the child protection register at the time of the incident, two were previously referred to social care services prior to the incident but were not receiving services and ten were not known to children's services. Ofsted has not yet received the remaining serious case reviews. The majority of serious case reviews take between 4 and 12 months to complete as, in some cases, the requirements of judicial proceedings can lead to delays in the review process,

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 October 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response. (UIN 294638)

To protect families and especially vulnerable siblings, the executive summaries of all serious case reviews are anonymised prior to publication by Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

To enable inspectors to link each serious case review accurately with the notification of the specific incident, Ofsted records all serious case reviews under children's actual names or initials and not the pseudonym which may be used for the executive summary when it is published. It is not possible therefore for Ofsted to provide details of the executive summary titles later used by the Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

Ofsted does provide details of the date of its evaluations by local authority and has included a full list of the 173 serious case reviews as an annex to the report.

Using this information, it is possible to access each of the executive summaries through a helpful web link hosted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children:

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/factsandfigures/readinglists/serious_case_reviews_2009_wda62916,.html

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Ofsted report entitled Learning lessons from serious case reviews: year 2, what steps he is taking in respect of those serious case reviews which were found to be inadequate. [294639]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 1 December 2008 all Local Safeguarding Children Boards responsible for serious case reviews which have been judged inadequate convene an independently chaired panel to reconsider the review before sending a report to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, and copied to Ofsted, which addresses the review's inadequacies. This process was applied retrospectively to all serious case reviews which Ofsted had evaluated as inadequate, as well as to those receiving an inadequate judgment after 1 December. Ofsted reported that 62 out of the 63 reports received by 31 March 2009 following inadequate SCRs were judged to be satisfactory. A further report was requested in respect of the one inadequate report; the revised version was judged by Ofsted as satisfactory. Ofsted noted in their report that the reconsiderations had resulted in greatly strengthened reviews and valuable lessons learnt with regard to safeguarding practice. These arrangements are reflected in new draft guidance currently subject to public consultation (chapter 8 of "Working Together to Safeguard Children").

Departmental Advertising

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on newspaper advertising carried in each newspaper in the most recent year for which figures are available. [289511]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Expenditure on newspaper advertising by the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the period April 2008 to March 2009 is outlined in the following table.

DCSF: 2008/09

Publication	*Expenditure (£)*
Daily Express	104,980
Daily Mail	312,327
Daily Mirror	141,500
Daily Star	37,480
Daily Star on Sunday	6,950
Daily Telegraph	113,148
Financial Times	25,000
News of the World	120,901
Sunday Express	46,495
Sunday Mirror	75,036
Sunday Telegraph	68,430
The Guardian	69,656
The Independent	24,630
The Independent on Sunday	12,850
The Mail on Sunday	100,650
The Observer	32,600
The Sun	299,550
The Sunday Times	218,400
The Times	[illegible],600
Total	1,905,183

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his latest estimate is of expenditure by his Department and its predecessor on all forms of consultancy for each *(a)* year and *(b)* quarter from 31 March 1997; and if he will make a statement. [293396]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Figures for the former Department for Education and Skills show that it spent the following sums from administration costs (the Department's internal running costs) on consultancy from 1997.

	£ million
1997-98	3.9
1998-99	5.0
1999-2000	3.7
2000-01	4.3
2001-02	5.0
2002-03	4.0
2003-04	4.7
2004-05	3.9

The costs of consultancy charged to programmes budgets (supporting external front-line delivery) before November 2004 were not recorded centrally, and could now be provided only at disproportionate cost. The total cost of consultancy charged to programmes from November to March 2004-05 was £4.4 million.

From the year 2005/06, consultancy costs as a whole have been captured. Set out as follows are comparable annual consultancy costs for the Department; your request for quarterly expenditure details is however one which could be met only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on consultants

	£ million
2005/06	21.5
2006/07	45.1
2007/08	61.4
2008/09	59.2

Departmental Internet

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which officials in his Department write the tweets on his Department's Twitter site. [293376]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's Twitter channel is managed by the Digital Communications

Unit. Updates to it form part of the business as usual editorial process for corporate news updates. For some policy announcements, officials from across the Department will provide the draft text for updates, which are then reviewed and edited as necessary.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what budget his Department has agreed with each of its non-departmental bodies for the period 2009 to 2011. [283290]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Funding has been agreed only for 2009-10 and is shown in the following table.

2009-10

Name	*£ million*
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)	43
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)	124
Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)	70
National College for School Leadership (NCSL)	86
Partnership for Schools (PFS)	21
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)	132
School Food Trust (SFT)	7
Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA)	708
11 Million	3

Departmental Public Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to table 8.4 of his Department's annual report for 2009, which individual programmes and corresponding allocations for 2010-11 are aggregated under the items *(a)* Sure Start, *(b)* 14-19 Development, *(c)* Qualifications and Curriculum, *(d)* Youth Programmes, *(e)* other students' fund, *(f)* school standards grants and *(g)* academies. [292052]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's programmes shown aggregated in DCSF's Departmental Annual Report 2009 for the year 2010-11 are provided in the following table:

Departmental report allocation 2010-11

Programme details	*£000*
(a) Sure Start	
Sure Start: Other Current Programmes	72,309
Sure Start LA Current Grants	1,540,382
Childcare Initiative	41,900
Sure Start—LA Capital Grants	315,025
Extended Schools and Study Support	457,466
Sure Start total	2,427,082
(b) 14-19 Development	
14-19 Local Delivery	116,681
14-19 Diploma Costs	25,500
Attainment at 19	30,071
Bridging Allowances and Community Industry Pensions	1,455
14-19 Development total	173,707
(c) Qualifications and Curriculum	
Qualifications and Curriculum	91,762
Qualifications and Curriculum total	91,762
(d) Youth Programmes	
Contact Point (Capital)	35,200
Youth Challenge Fund	4,300
Workforce Development Capital Grant	218
National Youth Agency (NYA)/National Voluntary Youth Agency (NVYO) Grants	8,000
Children and Families Directorate (CFD) Capital Grant	21,334
Voluntary Child Services (VCS) Children Young People and Families (CYPF) Grant and capacity improving	21,802
Communications/Participation/Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS)	864
Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS)/Integrated Children's System (ICS)/Making Safeguarding Everyone's Responsibility (MSER)/Adoption Strategy/Quality Protects (QP)	59,523
Family Fund Trust/Contact a Family	23,322
10 Year Strategy Additions	66,000
Youth Sector Support	40,000
Peer Mentoring	240
Youth Programmes total	280,803
(e) Other Standards Fund	
Standards Fund Current	2,213,161
Other Standards Fund total	2,213,161
(f) School Standards Grant	
School Standard Grants	1,665,925
School Standards Grant total	1,665,925
(g) Academies	
City Academy recurrent	284,312
Academies total	284,312

Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what resources from which standards funds have been allocated by his Department in the last 12 months. [293405]

Mr. Coaker: The following table shows the Standards Fund allocations made to local authorities for 2008-09 and 2009-10 to date.

Standards Fund allocations to local authorities

		£ million
	2008-09	*2009-10*
Revenue Grants		
School Development Grant	1,915.0	1,950.8
School Lunch Grant	78.8	78.8
Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant	184.9	194.0
Targeted Improvement Grant[1]	12.2	15.1
Making Good Progress	7.7	126.6
1-2-1 Tuition and Participation Key Stage 2 early roll out[2]	15.7	—
Extended Schools—Sustainability	73.5	134.5
Extended Schools Subsidy	7.1	37.8
Targeted Support for the Primary National Strategy	195.8	220.3

Standards Fund allocations to local authorities

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*
Targeted Support for the Secondary National Strategy	109.5	108.3
City Challenge[1]	32.8	10.13
Extending and increasing flexibility of free entitlement for 3-4 year olds	80.0	170.0
Music	82.6	82.5
Playing for Success	12.8	13.1
Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme	17.0	18.5
National Challenge[1]	54.9	37.3
Total Revenue Grants	2,880.2	3197.7
Capital Grants[3]		
Devolved Formula Capital	802.0	1,090.5
Building Schools for the Future (BSF)[4]	635.8	849.4
Primary Capital Programme	143.5	734.8
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Standards and Diversity	53.6	66.8
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—One School Pathfinders	435.4	329.0
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Main Programme	170.5	9.5
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Kitchens	8.3	47.1
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Cookery in the Curriculum	1.0	30.1
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—14-19 Diploma/SEN	—	302.3
Targeted Capital Fund (TCF)—Specialist Sports Colleges[5]	—	22.0
Modernisation	—	300.6
Harnessing Technology	200.8	200.8
Framework Academies[4]	101.3	263.0
Extended Schools (Capital)	84.0	89.0
Miscellaneous Capital	24.8	34.7
Basic Need Safety Valve	22.7	19.3
City Learning Centres	15.8	15.8
Specialist Schools Capital	17.5	12.9
School Travel Plans	15.4	11.0
Home Access for Targeted Groups[6]	18.0	—
Total Capital Grants	2,750.3	4,428.6

[1] Further allocations to be made during 2009-10 as projects progress.

[2] Within Making Good Progress from 2009-10.

[3] From October 2009 the Department has transferred certain of its operational functions in relation to schools capital funding, including capital grant payments to local authorities, to Partnerships for Schools.

[4] Full year spend for 2009-10 could reach £1,010 million (BSF) and £350 million (Framework Academies) if projects in the pipeline reach their expected milestones during the year.

[5] Part of TCF Standards and Diversity programme in 2008-09.

[6] Home Access Programme will be not routed through local authorities in 2009-10.

Pupils: Migration

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the level of pupil mobility in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority in 2007-08. [286238]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 July 2009]:* The DCSF does not publish any estimates of pupil mobility. Estimates of pupil mobility in primary and secondary schools are provided here using the mobility indicators that form part of the DCSF's Contextual Value Added (CVA) models. These identify pupils as mobile if they join a school at non standard times. Only pupils at the end of Key Stage 2 and the end of Key Stage 4 in 2007/08 are included in the figures. A copy of these tables has been placed in the Libraries.

Social Workers: Young Offender Institutions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many social workers have worked full-time in young offender institutions in each year since 1997. [293649]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Vetting: Appeals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people convicted of each type of offence have successfully appealed against automatic barring from working with children. [293543]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* No individuals who have been automatically placed on list 99 and barred from working with children have successfully appealed against automatic barring from working with children.

TREASURY

Adjudicator's Office

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what training staff of the Adjudicator's Office receive in respect of handling *(a)* complaints and *(b)* applications for compensation. [294632]

Mr. Timms: New staff at the Adjudicator's Office normally receive a 13 module training programme when they join the office. This programme includes separate modules on complaints handling and redress (compensation).

Consolidated Contractors Corporation

David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* communications and *(c)* other contacts Ministers and officials in his Department have had with the Consolidated Contractors Corporation (CCC Group) and its international offshoots in the last five years. [294381]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Council of Economic Advisers: Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the job specification and terms of reference for members of his Department's Council of Economic Advisers who have the status of special advisers. [292600]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Prime Minister provides Parliament with details of special advisers through an annual written ministerial statement. This includes members of the Council of Economic Advisers, who are appointed on special adviser terms.

The terms of reference for the Council of Economic Advisers are:

> "To advise the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the design and implementation of policies for the achievement of the Government's economic objectives."

Departmental ICT

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years, what the reasons for the development of each system are; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have subsequently been *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290597]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table summarises the information requested for expenditure over £0.1 million on IT systems developed within HM Treasury in the five years to October 2009.

System name	*Reason for development*	*Status*	*Amount spent (£ million)*
Budget and Finance Bill Database	Secure single data repository for Budget and pre-Budget report data management and reporting	Implemented	0.2

In respect of the Department's Corporate Shared Services Programme, which had an IT-enabling element to underpin the shared Human Resource service for people in HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce, I refer the hon. Lady to the answer my predecessor gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 584W. It is not possible to disaggregate the cost of the IT-enabled element from the overall costs of the programme.

Economic Situation: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the recession on the economy in Leeds West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [294022]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government recognise that the global economic downturn has affected all regions within the UK. Yorkshire Forward, as the regional development agency in the region, has taken forward a number of initiatives to provide assistance to families and businesses in these difficult times. The Chancellor will provide an update on the state of the economy at a national level in the 2009 pre-Budget report later this autumn.

Financial Services

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Chairman of the Financial Services Authority on the social usefulness of activities of the financial services sector. [293993]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Ministers and officials meet the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues.

The paper "Reforming Financial Markets", published on 8 July 2009, sets out the Government's approach to reforming regulation of financial services.

Government: Assets

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 23-28, on sale of Government assets, what valuation his Department placed in October 2007 on *(a)* the Tote, *(b)* the Dartford Crossing, *(c)* the student loan book, *(d)* the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, *(e)* the central Government property proposed for sale and *(f)* the local authority assets proposed for sale. [293443]

Mr. Byrne: Publishing details of valuations of Government assets ahead of any commercial negotiations with potential buyers would undermine the value for money of any disposal. However, departmental and national accounts provide some details of the book value of Government assets.

Inheritance Tax: Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 9 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 967W, on Taxation: Valuation Office, how many inheritance tax valuations submitted by taxpayers were adjusted following a challenge by the Valuation Office Agency in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2002-03 and *(d)* 2001-02. [294446]

Ian Pearson: The number of inheritance tax cases in which the valuations submitted by taxpayers were adjusted following a challenge by the Valuation Office Agency in 2004-05 was 6,169. Figures for the earlier years cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines: Financial Services

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1WS, on delegated legislation (counter terrorism), how many offices the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines maintains in the UK; whether they will be required to be closed; and if he will make a statement. [293789]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Companies House records state that the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) has one registered office in the UK.

The direction contained in the Financial Restrictions (Iran) Order 2009 requires all UK financial and credit institutions to cease business relationships and transactions with both Bank Mellat and IRISL, and their branches, wherever they are located. It does not require the IRISL office in the UK to be closed.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the research and development tax credit. [294584]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people obtained relief under the furnished holiday letting rules for occupancy rates of *(a)* 10, *(b)* 15, *(c)* 20 and *(d)* more than 25 weeks in the 2007-08 tax year; and if he will make a statement. [294435]

Mr. Timms: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs administrative systems do not hold information about the occupancy rates of let property, including properties let by those obtaining relief under the furnished holiday lettings rules.

An impact assessment will be published at the 2009 pre-Budget report alongside draft legislation.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether following the abolition of the furnished holiday letting rules owners of self-catering cottages and owners of bed and breakfast establishments will be subject to the same taxation regime. [294473]

Mr. Timms: Following abolition of the furnished holiday letting rules, the owners of most self catering cottages will be taxed on the basis that they are carrying on a property business, but where additional services are provided, some or all of the activities may amount to a trade.

There are long established rules for deciding whether an activity is a trade. Under these rules, running a bed and breakfast establishment is normally a trade.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with European Commission on the furnished holiday letting rules; and if he will make a statement. [294474]

Mr. Timms: The Government discuss a range of issues with the European Commission. As was the case with the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of these discussions.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals have made representations against his plans to amend the furnished holiday letting rules since those plans were announced; and if he will make a statement. [294475]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of holiday cottages owned by those who will be affected by his proposed amendments to the furnished holiday letting rules. [294476]

Mr. Timms: From the information supplied in the 2007-08 income tax returns, HM Revenue and Customs estimate that the repeal of the furnished holiday lettings rules from April 2010 will affect approximately 75,000 properties.

An impact assessment will be published at the 2009 pre-Budget Report alongside draft legislation.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a gateway review was undertaken in relation to the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System. [292636]

Ian Pearson: The Office of Government Commerce Gateway review process applies to all major projects across Government and is designed to ensure high standards of project management.

OGC has not carried out a Gateway review of the VOA GIS project as it does not fall into the category of a major project. The VOA's GIS project has been categorised as low risk and is therefore subject to a different level of review.

Valuation Office: Data Protection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr Dunne) of 14 September 2009, *Official Report,* column 2134W, on the Valuation Office: data protection, whether photographs of dwellings held on the Valuation Office Agency's photographic database are treated as personal data. [294361]

Ian Pearson: All data, including photographs, which qualified as personal data in accordance with paragraph 1.1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 are treated in accordance with that Act by the Valuation Office Agency.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Ludlow of 14 September 2009, *Official Report,* column 2134W, on the Valuation Office: data protection, since what date the Valuation Office Agency has treated domestic property attribute data on individual dwellings as personal data. [294367]

Ian Pearson: Since 1998, all data, including domestic property attributes, which qualified as personal data in accordance with paragraph 1.1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 are treated in accordance with that Act by the Valuation Office Agency.

Valuation Office: Land Registry

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent on the Land Registry Direct service since February 2007. [294531]

Ian Pearson: Over the period February 2007 to September 2009, the VOA spent £56,831 on the Land Registry Direct service.

Valuation Office: Training

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1514W, on the Valuation Office: training, what the content of the Euclidian programme is. [294444]

Ian Pearson: Euclidian is a suite of web-based interactive learning tools designed and developed by the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV). The programmes, which cover a variety of benefit and revenue topics, are predominantly aimed at people working in local authorities.

Euclidian is hosted on the IRRV website at:

www.irrvlearning.org.uk

Welfare Tax Credits

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on public expenditure of removing the second income threshold on tax credits and applying a consistent taper rate of *(a)* 40 per cent., *(b)* 41 per cent. and *(c)* 42 per cent. in each of the next five years; and if he will estimate the number of people who would have their awards reduced to zero in each case. [293380]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* The estimated savings from 2010-11 to 2014-15 from removing the second income threshold and applying a consistent taper rate at each of the rates requested, is provided in the following table. No account has been taken of possible behavioural effects.

Effect on expenditure

£ million

Taper rate	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
40 per cent.	-1,010	-1,020	-1,000	-990	-960
41 per cent.	-1,290	-1,320	-1,310	-1,310	-1,300
42 per cent.	-1,560	-1,600	-1,610	-1,620	-1,630

Estimates of the additional number of claimants who would have their awards tapered to zero if these measures were implemented immediately are shown in the following table.

Additional number of claimants with awards tapered to zero

	Thousand
40 per cent.	1,520
41 per cent.	1,590
42 per cent.	1,640

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on the Exchequer of reducing the income disregard for tax credits from £25,000 to *(a)* £2,500 and (b) £0 in each of the next five years. [293572]

Mr. Timms: This information requested is available only at disproportionate cost due to the complexity of the computations and assumptions involved. Reducing the income disregard would result in significant additional overpayments being generated. The extent to which these impact on the Exchequer will depend on the timing of these overpayments and whether or not they are ultimately recovered. There may also be a behavioural effect as incentives to report income changes could also be affected.

The hon. Member may find it informative to refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois), on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1043-1044W, regarding the estimated cost of increasing the income disregard from £2,500 to £25,000.

Low Birthweight Babies

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of babies born in each primary care trust area were of low birth weight in the period since 1997. [293188]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

What proportion of babies born in each primary care trust area of England were of low birth weight in the period since 1997. (293188)

What percentage of babies born alive had a birth weight of less than 2.5 kg in (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority and (c) each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. (293187)

The table attached provides the percentage of live births that were of low birth weight (less than 2.5kg) in: (a) England, (b) each strategic health authority and (c) each primary care organisation area for 1997 to 2008 (the latest year available).

A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Figures for 15 primary care organisations have been suppressed because of small numbers, in order to protect the privacy of individual mothers and babies.

CABINET OFFICE

Charities

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 690-92W, on charities: insolvency, (1) how many registered charities have declared themselves insolvent in each month since March 2009; and if she will make a statement; [294028]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 251-53W, on charities, how many charities there were on the Charity Commission register in each month since March 2009; and if she will make a statement. [294029]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated October 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many registered charities declared themselves insolvent in each month since March 2009; and how many charities have been on the Charity Commission register in each month since March 2009.

With regard to how many registered charities declared themselves insolvent in each month since March 2009, the Charity Commission does not currently record this information centrally. However, I have set out the number of charities who were removed from the register, in each month, since March 2009 with the reasons recorded for their removal.

The table below refers to those charities which are required to register with the Commission by law. Smaller charities are not required to register with us; the threshold for registration was an annual income of £1,000 until April 2007 when this threshold was increased to £5,000.

Number

	2009							
Reason for removal	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*Total*
Ceased to exist or operate due to merger, incorporation or transfer of funds	103	188	90	124	214	74	141	934
Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons	328	290	195	247	559	2,553	6,277	10,449
Voluntary removal of charities below the minimum registration threshold	300	1,379	739	216	108	69	52	2,863
Duplicate registrations and other corrections	6	17	2	3	3	4	0	35
Total	737	1,874	1,026	590	884	2,700	6,470	14,281

Charities removed from the Register due to insolvency are likely to have fallen under the category "Ceased to exist or operate for other reasons". However, it is unlikely that insolvency accounts for more than a small minority.

The increase in numbers of charities removed from August 2009 is a result of our work to improve the accuracy of the Register of Charities. A key aspect of our strategy is the prompt removal of charities that are inactive and with which we can no longer establish contact. The marked peak of removals of charities that have ceased to exist or operate in September 2009 is a direct consequence of this strategy.

With regard to how many charities have been on the Charity Commission register in each month since March 2009, please see the table below.

Number

	2009						
	31 March	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*
Main charities	166,132	164,847	164,368	164,388	164,144	162,417	157,415
Linked charities	22,769	22,662	22,657	22,639	22,486	22,083	21,305
Total	188,901	187,509	187,025	187,027	186,630	184,500	178,720

Main charities are those required to prepare accounts and send an Annual Return or Annual Update to the Commission. Linked charities, such as subsidiary, group or constituent charities are each linked to a main charity for administrative purposes and do not report their financial results in their own right.

It is a rather complex picture because of the unusually high number of charities removed from the Register in recent months. I would be happy to give you a more detailed background briefing if that would be helpful.

Charities: Government Assistance

John Battle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what support her Department has made available to charities in the Leeds area during the recession; and if she will make a statement. [294014]

Angela E. Smith: As part of the Government support for the third sector during the recession, over £1.7 million has been provided to organisations in and around the Leeds area:

The Hardship Fund made three awards to organisations in Leeds totalling £228,498.

The Targeted Support Fund made 55 grants, which totalled £1.38 million in Calderdale, Kirklees, Wakefield and Bradford.

Nine organisations in the Leeds local authority area were successfully awarded Modernisation Fund bursaries (worth £9,000 in total). One organisation has received a Modernisation Fund loan in Leeds for £100,000.

As part of Government's response to recession, the Department for Work and Pensions is working with Voluntary Action Leeds to provide volunteer brokerage to individuals that have been unemployed for longer than six months.

A regional roadshow was held in the Yorkshire and Humber region on 21 April 2009 to promote the Government's recession support measures.

I am pleased that many third sector organisations in the Leeds area have been successful in accessing the Government's recession measures. This support is in addition to the £515 million that Government are already providing to support the third sector across England through its core programmes.

Internet: Advertising

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when the *(a)* Central Sponsor for Information Assurance and *(b)* Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure was informed that trials of 121 Media/Phorm systems had taken place. [294373]

Angela E. Smith: The Information Security and Assurance (ISA) team (formerly the Central Sponsor for Information Assurance) within the Cabinet Office has the lead strategic role in setting and co-ordinating data handling policy for government and for delivering the National Information Assurance Strategy. ISA does not determine which particular systems, software or ICT products are used within the UK and as such ISA would not be informed officially of any trials carried out by 121 Media/Phorm systems.

The Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure reports to the Home Office and is accountable to the director general of the Security Service.

Lord Ashcroft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on which dates her Department passed material to the Information Commissioner in connection with the Freedom of Information request lodged by the hon. Member for Pendle pertaining to Lord Ashcroft. [293198]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave him on 14 July 2009, *Official Report,* columns 340-41W and 15 July 2009, *Official Report,* column 462W.

Performing Arts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance her Department has issued to *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies on the hiring from public funds of celebrities for (i) endorsement and (ii) other marketing purposes. [292096]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The Cabinet Office has not issued guidance to *(a)* executive agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies on the hiring of celebrities using public funds for (i) endorsement and (ii) other marketing purposes.

Government Departments, their agencies and NDPBs decide their own communication priorities and will seek to make use of the most effective and cost efficient techniques to achieve their communications objectives. The use of personalities is one such approach which can help engage people extremely effectively.

All Government communications activities are subject to strict propriety guidance, which, along with relevant codes of conduct and guidance, define how public servants can properly, efficiently and effectively present government policies and programmes.

Teenage Pregnancy

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many maternities of mothers aged under 20 years there were in each constituency in England in each year since 1997. [294606]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many maternities of mothers aged under 20 years there were in each constituency in England in each year since 1997. (294606)

The table provides the number of maternities among women under the age of 20 years for each parliamentary constituency in England, for 1997 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available). A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Telephone Services

Mark Williams: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the Government's policy is on call charges by Government Departments for hon. Members for use of a telephone hotline on behalf of their constituents; and if she will make a statement. [292831]

Angela E. Smith: There are currently no plans to consider special charging arrangements for Members of Parliament calling government service providers on behalf of constituents.

Unemployment: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(b)* West Chelmsford constituency had been unemployed for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last six months; [294057]

(2) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in *(a)* Chelmsford local authority area and *(b)* West Chelmsford constituency were unemployed in (i) May 1997 and (ii) each of the last six months for which figures are available. [294058]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in (a) Chelmsford local authority area and (b) West Chelmsford Parliamentary constituency have been unemployed for over (i) six and (ii) 12 months in each of the last six months; and how many people aged between 16 and 24 years in (a) Chelmsford local authority area and (b) West Chelmsford Parliamentary constituency were unemployed in (i) May 1997 and (ii) each of the last six months for which figures are available. (294057 & 294058)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

However, estimates of unemployment for the requested age bands and geographies are not available. As an alternative, in Table 1 we have provided the number of persons, aged 16 to 24, claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, in the requested geographies, for (a) over 6 months and (b) over 12 months in September 2009 and the previous 5 months. Table 2 contains the number of persons aged 16 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the requested geographies for (a) May 1997 and (b) September 2009 and the previous 5 months.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Number of people aged 16 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Chelmsford Local Authority and West Chelmsford Parliamentary constituency for over 6 months and 12 months.

	Chelmsford		*West Chelmsford*	
Date	*over six months*	*over12 months*	*over six months*	*over12 months*
April 2009	115	5	85	5
May 2009	130	10	100	5
June 2009	155	10	115	5
July 2009	145	10	105	10
August 2009	170	10	120	10
September 2009	150	10	110	10

[1]. Data have been rounded to nearest five.

[2]. People claiming for over 12 months are included in the counts of people claiming for over six months.

Source:

Jobcentreplus administrative system

Table 2: Number of people aged 16 to 24 claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Chelmsford Local Authority and West Chelmsford Parliamentary constituency

Date	*Chelmsford*	*West Chelmsford*
May 1997	565	385
April 2009	850	585
May 2009	850	595
June 2009	800	560
July 2009	845	590
August 2009	900	630
September 2009	870	610

Note:

Data have been rounded to nearest five.

Source:

Jobcentreplus administrative system

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Gangmasters: Telephone Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanism exists for his Department's Pay and Work Rights telephone helpline service to work in conjunction with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority. [293761]

Mr. McFadden: The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) was closely involved in the design and set-up of the Pay and Work Rights helpline, and relevant cases are automatically referred through to them. The GLA is a member of the Fair Employment Enforcement Board and involved in several other joint-working bodies supporting the helpline and related campaign.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he has taken to publicise his Department's Pay and Work Rights telephone helpline service to vulnerable workers, including those employed by gangmasters. [293762]

Mr. McFadden: On 22 September 2009 BIS launched a £2.5 million awareness raising campaign aimed at promoting the Pay and Work Rights Helpline to vulnerable workers and employers. This includes communications in national press, radio, leaflets, online, and face-to-face activity. Areas covered by the GLA have been included in this messaging and a specific element aimed at gangmasters and their workers is planned.

Higher Education: Admissions

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many school students from Leeds West constituency entered higher education in the academic year 2008-09. [294020]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to identify whether entrants to higher education from Leeds West constituency attended schools or further education colleges. The number of 18 and 19-year-old undergraduate entrants from Leeds West constituency is given as an alternative.

The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) shows that in the 2007-08 academic year there were 180 undergraduate entrants to higher education, aged 18 or 19, from Leeds West constituency.

Undergraduate entrants from Leeds West constituency are defined by full and valid home post codes recorded for the student in the HESA student record. Some of these students, although resident in Leeds West, may not have attended schools in Leeds West constituency.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available from HESA in January 2010.

Higher Education: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of school leavers from each London borough went on to begin a university course in each of the last five academic years; and if he will make a statement. [293047]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not collect data on the number of school leavers, who are resident in a particular area, who do not go on to higher education. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate the percentage of school leavers from London boroughs who do go on to higher education.

It is not possible to identify whether entrants to higher education from London boroughs attended schools or further education colleges.

The numbers of 18-year-old undergraduate entrants to higher education from London local authorities, in each of the last five academic years, are shown as an alternative in the table.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

18-year-old undergraduate entrants[1], from London local authorities[2] UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
City of London	10	10	5	15	10
Camden	350	350	445	420	[illegible]
Greenwich	435	475	455	550	570

18-year-old undergraduate entrants[1], from London local authorities[2]: UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Hackney	335	385	465	460	460
Hammersmith and Fulham	265	285	315	310	320
Islington	295	295	385	370	390
Kensington and Chelsea	255	295	330	295	345
Lambeth	480	455	570	575	590
Lewisham	515	535	625	645	690
Southwark	520	450	575	550	595
Tower Hamlets	465	510	540	545	555
Wandsworth	435	445	515	455	555
Westminster	325	330	385	415	385
Barking and Dagenham	255	305	350	345	395
Barnet	1,075	1,220	1,345	1,405	1,345
Bexley	595	620	665	690	740
Brent	950	1,020	1,120	1,095	1,080
Bromley	935	1,040	1,095	1,170	1,135
Croydon	1,055	1,100	1,200	1,225	1,300
Ealing	955	1,005	1,170	1,175	1,105
Enfield	930	1,010	1,135	1,140	1,100
Haringey	475	510	600	600	610
Harrow	1,100	1,180	1,185	1,245	1,245
Havering	550	600	650	685	690
Hillingdon	770	785	840	925	860
Hounslow	690	665	745	775	760
Kingston upon Thames	455	560	635	575	585
Merton	470	505	570	560	600
Newham	755	800	870	1,000	1,020
Redbridge	1,060	1,070	1,220	1,335	1,285
Richmond upon Thames	525	540	685	645	630
Sutton	560	615	620	670	625
Waltham Forest	615	615	650	735	765

[1] Covers entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include entrants where the local authority area of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid information.

[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are on a standard registration population (SRP) basis and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Radicalism

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to minimise the influence of extremist Islamic activists in universities. [293660]

Mr. Lammy: There is some evidence of extremist or radical groups or individuals operating on a handful of campuses. Where the problem occurs it is very serious but it is not widespread. As part of HMG's Prevent strategy, there are a range of activities taking place within universities to help them manage the risk of violent extremism or radicalisation taking place within their institutions.

1. In January 2008, the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills issued guidance to all universities in England setting out practical advice and guidance on how to increase cohesion on campus and manage the risk of violent extremism.

2. This guidance is now being followed up with targeted support from BIS officials and police colleagues to some universities which fall within Prevent funded local authority areas.

3. BIS are also funding a full time inter-faith and Prevent officer at the NUS to work specifically to raise awareness and undertake training of NUS staff and officers.

4. Funding is being given to the Association of Muslim Chaplains in Higher Education through the CLG Community Leadership Fund to help them increase their capacity to support Muslim Chaplains working in HE and enable to them to deliver more effective pastoral support for Muslim students.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Jim Cousins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* overseas students there were at each university in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [293184]

Mr. Lammy: The numbers of UK and overseas students enrolled at UK higher education institutions in 2004-05 and 2007-08 are given in Table 1 and Table 2. Enrolment numbers for 2004-05 and 2007-08 may not be directly comparable due to institutions changing their names and/or merging.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Table 1: Student enrolments[1] by institution and region of domicile—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2004-05

	Region of student domicile		
Institution	*UK*	*EU*	*Other overseas*
Open University	173,010	5	5
Cranfield University	2,825	940	800
Royal College of Art	535	200	130
Royal College of Nursing	850	5	25
Bishop Grosseteste College	1,485	0	0
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College	8,130	255	895
Central School of Speech and Drama	770	65	65
University of Chester	12,040	210	250
Canterbury Christ Church University	14,015	250	355
York St John College	5,515	25	100
College of St Mark and St John	4,400	45	180
Darlington College of Arts	510	45	20
Edge Hill College of HE	14,470	90	50
University College Falmouth	1,805	55	100
Harper Adams University College	1,650	60	35
Homerton College	2,740	5	20
Kent Institute of Art and Design	1,740	220	265
University of Winchester	4,650	35	95
Liverpool Hope University	6,485	280	485
University of the Arts, London	8,475	1,475	2,775
University of Luton	8,240	1,130	2,400
University College Northampton	9,640	150	540
Newman College of Higher Education	2,305	75	10
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	950	55	90
Roehampton University	7,170	320	435
Rose Bruford College	745	55	65
Royal Academy of Music	410	110	205
Royal College of Music	335	135	130
Royal Northern College of Music	420	45	90
Southampton Solent University	10,070	390	790
St Martin's College	12,055	205	90

Table 1: Student enrolments¹ by institution and region of domicile—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2004-05

	Region of student domicile		
Institution	*UK*	*EU*	*Other overseas*
St Mary's College	3,200	290	10
Trinity and All Saints College	2,440	30	35
Trinity College of Music	535	165	90
Surrey Institute of Art and Design, University College	2,445	135	175
University College Worcester	7,290	130	120
Anglia Polytechnic University	24,055	1,155	1,085
Bath Spa University	6,010	100	160
University of Bolton	6,685	150	600
Bournemouth University	13,605	465	1,125
University of Brighton	17,345	1,405	1,250
University of Central England in Birmingham	21,240	440	1,220
University of Central Lancashire	24,440	605	1,675
University of Gloucestershire	8,100	125	350
Coventry University	16,465	1,050	1,875
University of Derby	12,920	505	495
University of East London	13,205	950	2,180
University of Greenwich	18,130	970	3,170
University of Hertfordshire	19,110	530	3,325
University of Huddersfield	16,635	445	795
University of Lincoln	11,900	580	445
Kingston University	17,695	1,110	1,675
Leeds Metropolitan University	24,675	730	2,630
Liverpool John Moores University	20,145	835	1,770
Manchester Metropolitan University	29,535	785	1,385
Middlesex University	18,865	1,205	4,785
De Montfort University	21,225	400	1,040
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	21,955	730	2,770
Nottingham Trent University	24,770	555	1,065
Oxford Brookes University	15,095	905	2,200
University of Plymouth	27,095	695	1,130
University of Portsmouth	17,015	1,310	2,440
Sheffield Hallam University	25,365	495	2,065
London South Bank University	17,750	980	2,320
Staffordshire University	12,910	825	1,255
University of Sunderland	15,280	735	2,560
University of Teesside	19,220	390	615
Thames Valley University	17,385	1,000	1,625
University of the West of England, Bristol	25,200	800	1,215
University College Chichester	4,895	145	125
University of Westminster	20,790	1,840	3,670
Wimbledon School of Art	555	45	50
University of Wolverhampton	19,875	825	2,325
University of Wales, Newport	8,635	165	255
North-East Wales Institute of Higher Education	5,235	830	75
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	8,150	255	550
University of Glamorgan	18,865	1,005	1,400
Swansea Institute of Higher Education	5,230	205	125
Trinity College, Carmarthen	2,155	50	10
University of Abertay Dundee	3,420	280	445
Edinburgh College of Art	1,295	185	210
Glasgow School of Art	1,330	120	140
Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh	4,330	245	325
Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	580	40	55
Robert Gordon University	10,055	675	1,340
University of Paisley	12,030	260	345
Glasgow Caledonian University	14,885	315	600
Napier University	11,000	1,465	975
Aston University	6,270	360	1,330
University of Bath	10,835	830	1,800
University of Birmingham	23,615	1,020	3,865
University of Bradford	8,560	460	2,080
University of Bristol	18,195	805	1,965
Brunel University	11,725	890	1,655
University of Cambridge	19,280	1,505	3,410
City University	16,990	1,270	2,730
University of Durham	13,955	570	1,925
University of East Anglia	12,180	505	1,200
University of Essex	7,370	940	2,055
University of Exeter	11,920	515	1,285
University of Hull	17,910	665	2,235
University of Keele	10,425	290	980
University of Kent	13,905	1,015	1,550
University of Lancaster	14,540	755	1,585
University of Leeds	30,180	1,065	4,215
University of Leicester	11,025	620	2,300
University of Liverpool	17,855	620	1,865
Birkbeck College	13,960	290	485
Goldsmiths College	5,925	555	735
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	7,900	1,400	2,830
Institute of Education	3,635	345	795
King's College London	17,410	1,450	2,315
London Business School	380	265	770
London School of Economics and Political Science	3,235	1,440	3,740
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	405	125	440
Queen Mary and Westfield College	8,135	545	2,080
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	5,515	650	1,290
Royal Veterinary College	1,175	80	140
St George's Hospital Medical School	3,195	80	140
School of Oriental and African Studies	2,180	545	1,145
School of Pharmacy	1,050	45	170
University College London	13,940	1,830	3,805
University of London (Institutes and activities)	270	55	75
Loughborough University	13,120	565	2,380
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	14,485	810	2,490
University of Nottingham	25,740	870	4,245
University of Oxford	17,225	1,625	3,770
University of Reading	11,935	660	1,410
University of Salford	16,960	580	1,550
University of Sheffield	20,985	800	3,390
University of Southampton	18,970	845	1,995
University of Surrey	10,995	1,360	2,510
University of Sussex	9,945	890	980
University of Warwick	21,680	1,870	5,265
University of York	10,065	635	1,530
University of Edinburgh	18,370	1,535	2,355
University of Glasgow	22,080	700	1,650
University of Strathclyde	20,300	580	1,385
University of Aberdeen	11,465	685	1,295

Table 1: Student enrolments[1] by institution and region of domicile—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2004-05

	Region of student domicile		
Institution	*UK*	*EU*	*Other overseas*
Heriot-Watt University	6,195	740	1,255
University of Dundee	14,910	555	2,040
University of St Andrews	5,675	765	1,985
University of Stirling	7,485	305	585
Scottish Agricultural College	750	30	10
University of Wales, Lampeter	7,335	675	475
University of Wales, Aberystwyth	9,030	505	690
University of Wales, Bangor	8,680	385	435
Cardiff University	24,115	975	2,780
University of Wales, Swansea	12,405	300	990
Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama	565	20	30
Queen's University of Belfast	21,940	1,350	880
University of Ulster	22,935	2,750	535
University of Wales, Registry	0	0	0
Institute of Cancer Research	75	25	30
Writtle College	1,025	50	95
Norwich School of Art and Design	785	25	30
Northern School of Contemporary Dance	0	0	0
Cumbria Institute of the Arts	925	105	15
Stranmillis University College	1,390	40	0
St. Mary's University College	1,045	65	0
Royal Agricultural College	625	20	40
UHI Millennium Institute	6,130	115	60
Arts Institute at Bournemouth	1,340	65	90
Bell College	3,830	5	10
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	750	155	85
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	2,645	170	655
Courtauld Institute of Art	235	45	85
London Metropolitan University	22,075	1,935	4,760
University of Buckingham	165	45	475
University of Manchester	32,425	1,580	5,060
Total	1,970,150	93,995	203,125

[1] Covers full-time and part-time enrolments to postgraduate and undergraduate courses.

Notes:

1. Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five and components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2: Student enrolments[1] by institution and region of domicile—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2007-08

	Region of student domicile		
Institution	*UK*	*EU*	*Other overseas*
The Open University	181,365	210	120
Cranfield University[1]	2,380	1,150	1,875
Royal College of Art	575	230	345
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	1,895	0	25
Buckinghamshire New University	8,075	475	715
Central School of Speech and Drama	770	40	70
University of Chester	13,135	195	185
Canterbury Christ Church University	14,405	635	460
York St John University	6,030	70	85
University College Plymouth St Mark and St John	3,525	40	185
Dartington College of Arts	585	30	10
Edge Hill University	19,960	85	95
University College Falmouth	2,205	45	70
Harper Adams University College	4,000	75	145
University of Winchester	5,015	85	140
Liverpool Hope University	6,525	235	300
University of the Arts, London	10,195	1,660	3,505
University of Bedfordshire	10,855	1,660	1,680
University of Northampton	10,550	190	845
Newman University College	2,620	60	5
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	895	40	75
Roehampton University	7,460	315	455
Rose Bruford College	840	60	60
Royal Academy of Music	410	125	195
Royal College of Music	350	135	135
Royal Northern College of Music	525	50	115
Southampton Solent University	9,280	605	965
University of Cumbria	11,690	260	95
St Mary's University College, Twickenham	3,800	315	30
Leeds Trinity and All Saints	2,885	40	80
Trinity Laban	670	125	85
University of Worcester	7,350	200	215
Anglia Ruskin University	17,150	1,090	765
Bath Spa University	7,290	70	105
University of Bolton	7,070	190	585
Bournemouth University	15,845	680	1,350
University of Brighton	18,630	1,400	1,190
Birmingham City University	21,365	385	1,495
University of Central Lancashire	25,385	1,030	4,830
University of Gloucestershire	8,010	205	300
Coventry University	16,680	1,245	2,450
University of Derby	14,735	740	675
University of East London	16,055	875	2,500
University of Greenwich	19,625	1,010	3,875
University of Hertfordshire	19,170	570	3,095
University of Huddersfield	18,955	680	800
University of Lincoln	10,720	605	315
Kingston University	20,060	1,525	2,405
Leeds Metropolitan University	25,175	795	1,245
Liverpool John Moores University	21,780	795	1,875
The Manchester Metropolitan University	30,060	1,125	1,780
Middlesex University	16,880	1,380	3,360
De Montfort University	18,875	395	1,120
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	24,690	80CL	4,505
The Nottingham Trent University	21,175	500	1,830
Oxford Brookes University	15,065	975	1,995
University of Plymouth	27,465	840	1,070
University of Portsmouth	16,845	890	1,825
Sheffield Hallam University	27,355	705	3,030
London South Bank University	19,235	1,165	1,940
Staffordshire University	14,135	420	1,180

Table 2: Student enrolments[1] by institution and region of domicile—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2007-08

	Region of student domicile		
Institution	*UK*	*EU*	*Other overseas*
University of Sunderland	14,530	705	2,470
University of Teesside	23,995	595	815
Thames Valley University	15,160	1,185	1,795
University of the West of England, Bristol	29,130	980	1,385
University of Chichester	4,660	75	65
University of Westminster	17,780	2,030	3,420
University of Wolverhampton	18,260	1,180	1,865
University of Wales, Newport	8,620	130	370
Glyndwr University	5,135	1,635	495
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	8,060	230	1,615
University of Glamorgan	18,935	1,740	2,040
Swansea Metropolitan University	5,185	200	210
Trinity College, Carmarthen	2,145	55	25
University of Abertay Dundee	3,105	625	405
Edinburgh College of Art	1,200	195	200
Glasgow School of Art	1,325	155	270
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	4,560	320	450
The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	605	45	125
The Robert Gordon University	9,835	815	1,615
University of the West of Scotland	17,080	490	565
Glasgow Caledonian University	15,215	330	1,225
Napier University	9,930	1,625	1,435
Aston University	7,065	495	2,010
University of Bath	9,650	1,090	2,225
University of Birmingham	23,110	1,185	3,945
University of Bradford	9,210	960	2,205
University of Bristol	14,635	890	2,285
Brunel University	11,310	765	2,195
University of Cambridge	17,520	1,790	3,435
The City University	16,100	1,805	3,505
University of Durham	13,320	625	2,330
University of East Anglia	13,445	580	1,670
University of Essex	8,360	1,075	2,075
University of Exeter	12,455	610	1,640
University of Hull	18,420	705	1,880
University of Keele	10,215	315	885
University of Kent	14,985	1,170	1,650
University of Lancaster	11,080	885	1,755
University of Leeds	27,020	1,185	4,045
University of Leicester	12,485	720	2,150
University of Liverpool	16,885	665	1,830
Birkbeck College	16,025	595	605
Goldsmiths College	6,055	700	740
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	8,480	1,800	3,560
Institute of Education	6,230	395	760
Kings College London	16,955	1,675	2,480
London Business School	500	245	810
London School of Economics and Political Science	2,935	1,675	4,495
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	545	110	440
Queen Mary and Westfield College	10,450	840	2,320
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	5,895	805	1,680
The Royal Veterinary College	1,615	65	115
St Georges Hospital Medical School	3,805	110	245
The School of Oriental and African Studies	2,655	710	1,365
The School of Pharmacy	1,005	45	180
University College London	14,150	2,335	4,510
University of London (Institutes and activities)	180	40	70
Loughborough University	12,765	665	3,215
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	15,590	930	2,535
University of Nottingham	24,340	1,655	5,830
University of Oxford	17,560	1,975	4,445
University of Reading	11,905	825	1,745
University of Salford	16,475	910	1,800
University of Sheffield	19,775	1,035	3,750
University of Southampton	19,645	1,165	2,955
University of Surrey	11,195	1,625	2,250
University of Sussex	10,465	890	1,100
University of Warwick	21,640	2,010	4,795
University of York	10,460	685	2,040
University of Edinburgh	18,785	1,755	3,015
University of Glasgow	21,020	1,025	1,690
University of Strathclyde	19,235	565	1,940
University of Aberdeen	11,185	1,210	1,745
Heriot-Watt University	7,015	1,140	1,905
University of Dundee	14,120	735	1,865
University of St Andrews	5,575	800	1,795
University of Stirling	8,225	450	1,130
Scottish Agricultural College	850	45	25
University of Wales, Lampeter	6,660	555	670
Aberystwyth University	8,560	745	560
Bangor University	9,030	445	1,040
Cardiff University	22,445	945	3,200
Swansea University	12,160	345	1,365
The Queens University of Belfast	20,190	1,135	900
University of Ulster	20,720	2,510	410
The Institute of Cancer Research	225	35	40
Writtle College	880	30	75
Norwich University College of the Arts	1,200	15	5
Stranmillis University College	1,260	35	0
St Mary's University College	1,000	40	0
Royal Agricultural College	740	30	115
UHI Millennium Institute	7,420	75	90
The Arts Institute at Bournemouth	1,810	80	110
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	850	185	105
University College Birmingham	3,000	255	665
Courtauld Institute of Art	295	55	90
London Metropolitan University	21,600	2,370	4,005
University of Buckingham	370	65	550
University of Manchester	28,985	1,910	6,465
Heythrop College	675	30	40
University for the Creative Arts	4,725	385	320
Leeds College of Music	670	15	20

Table 2: Student enrolments[1] by institution and region of domicile—UK higher education institutions, academic year 2007-08

	Region of student domicile		
Institution	*UK*	*EU*	*Other overseas*
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	505	190	100
The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	735	25	125
University Campus Suffolk	4,235	20	25
Total	1,964,315	112,150	229,640

[1] Covers full-time and part-time enrolments to postgraduate and undergraduate courses.

Notes:

1. Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five and components may not sum to totals.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Lord Truscott

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting held between officials in his Department and Lord Truscott since the latter ceased to be a Government Minister. [256917]

Mr. McFadden: During the passage of the Energy Bill, officials from the Energy Bill Management Team in BERR met with a range of Peers and other interested stakeholders to answer questions and clarify the policy in the Bill. This included one meeting on 22 July with Lord Truscott. There are no minutes but I have placed information concerning the meeting in the Library, including correspondence between Lord Truscott's researcher and officials from the Department seeking clarification on some of the discussion points at the meeting.

Low Carbon Industrial Strategy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for what reasons copies of the Low Carbon Industrial Strategy were not placed in the Vote Office after publication on 15 July 2009. [288596]

Mr. McFadden: Around 30 copies of the Department's report "The UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy" were placed in the Vote Office on the morning of its publication. Unfortunately, demand for the report exceeded the number of copies available and there was a delay in obtaining additional copies for the Vote Office. I am sorry that some hon. Members were inconvenienced by being unable to get a copy from the Vote Office. The report was placed in the Library on the morning of its publication, however, and it was also available on the Department's internet site, as indicated in the written ministerial statement.

National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* income and *(b)* expenditure of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts was in each of the last three financial years. [293009]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The income and expenditure for the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) in the last three financial years was as follows:

		£000
	Income	*Expenditure*
2006/07	21,987	20,531
2007/08	35,574	31,571
2008/09	29,969	25,496

This information can be found in NESTA's annual report and accounts for each year, which are available in the Library.

National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts: Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts sought approval from his Department to attend the party political conferences in 2009. [292946]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* In accordance with Cabinet Office Guidance, the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) sought and obtained permission from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, its sponsor department.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what costs were incurred by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts in attending the *(a)* Liberal Democrat, *(b)* Labour, *(c)* Conservative and *(d)* Scottish National Party conference in 2009. [292947]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* NESTA incurred the following expenditure from attending party conferences in 2009:

	£
Liberal Democrats	3,598
Labour	13,436
Conservative	13,400
SNP	8,294

Post Offices

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on the future of the Network Change programme; and if he will make a statement. [293883]

Mr. McFadden: I am in regular contact with Post Office Ltd on a range of issues relating to the network.

The Network Change programme is now completed with the exception of three branches which will be replaced by Outreach services during the autumn. 93.3 per cent. of the total UK population remain within one mile of their nearest post office outlet.

Post Office Ltd is on course to achieve the expected cost-savings as a result of the programme, as part of an overall plan to reduce its costs by £270 million per annum, by 2010-11.

The level of customer business migrating from post offices which have closed under the programme to the remaining branches in the network is above target at 88 per cent.

Public Bodies: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the return profit from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts' portfolio of investments was in each year since 1998. [292123]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) received the following returns from investing its endowment:

	£ million
1998-99	8.37
1999-2000	11.80
2000-01	12.85
2001-02	9.66
2002-03	9.39
2003-04	9.76
2004-05	13.40
2005-06	13.75
2006-07	9.26
2007-08	22.46
2008-09	14.27

These figures are exclusive of bank interest received and are lower than the figures quoted in NESTA's annual reports and accounts for each year, which are available in the House of Commons Library.

Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make an assessment of the merits of the proposal by the Communication Workers Union that the dispute with the Royal Mail be resolved with third party mediation; and if he will make a statement. [293540]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* I have been in close contact with the unions and management and have made it clear that strikes are not the way to resolve differences or safeguard the future of our postal service.

It is of course for the disputing parties to consider and agree to third party mediation.

Students: Nationality

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students on university courses were *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* Republic of Ireland nationals and *(c)* foreign nationals other than from the Republic of Ireland in the 2008-09 academic year. [293659]

Mr. Lammy: Figures on total enrolments in UK higher education institutions (HEIs) for 2008/09 will not be available until January 2010. The information in the table below relates to the latest available year, 2007/08.

Total enrolments in higher education courses at UK HEIs by domicile[1], 2007/08

Domicile	*Number*
UK	1,964,315
Republic of Ireland	15,260
Overseas excluding Ireland	326,530
Total	2,306,105

[1] 'Domicile' refers to a student's home domicile prior to enrolling on their course.

Note:

Figures are rounded to nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the projected emissions savings of 1.2 million tonnes of carbon per year by 2020 under the Carbon Reduction Commitment in the achievement of the target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent. on 1990 levels by 2020. [294070]

Joan Ruddock: Initial modelling indicated that at least 0.9MtC (3.2MtCO$_2$e) pa. of cost-effective savings are available through the CRC alone, while synergies with other measures such as the Energy Performance Buildings Directive and decarbonisation of the electricity supply within this sector can contribute to additional savings up to 1.2MtC (4.4MtCO$_2$e). However the final savings from the CRC will be determined by the emissions cap. DECC and the Committee on Climate Change are undertaking further analysis to determine the appropriate level of the cap, taking into account our carbon budget targets.

We intend to announce the potential savings available in 2011 and the actual cap in 2012.

Carbon Reduction Commitment: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the base year is for carbon dioxide emissions for local authorities under the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme. [293372]

Joan Ruddock: All participants' position in the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme league table will primarily be determined by their average annual emissions over the preceding five years of the scheme, or since the start of the scheme, whichever is the shorter period.

Climate Change

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions Ministers from Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland's devolved Administrations have been included in the UK delegation to UN framework convention on climate change conferences since 1999. [293424]

Joan Ruddock: Ministers from the devolved Administrations have never been included on the UK delegation to the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

The Scottish Executive has been represented by either one or two officials on the UK delegation every year since 1999, but where Ministers from the devolved Administrations have attended, this has always been on other delegations. For example, in 2007 a Scottish Minister participated as a member of the Climate Group delegation.

Committee on Climate Change

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the Committee on Climate Change's first annual report to Parliament was not available in the Vote Office to hon. Members on its day of publication or the following day; and what steps he has taken to ensure that future such reports are available to hon. Members on publication. [293936]

Joan Ruddock: The delay in making the Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) first annual report available in the Vote Office was the result of the CCC not being fully aware of the requirements. The annual report was laid in both Houses on 12 October as required, but the CCC did not make copies available to both Houses through the Vote and Printed Paper Offices. When alerted to the need to do this, the CCC did send copies to both Houses on 14 October.

The CCC regrets this oversight and has advised the Department that they have put in place steps to avoid it being repeated.

Electricity

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage the Distribution Network Operators to meet climate change targets. [293870]

Joan Ruddock: Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) will play an important role in a range of measures DECC is taking to meet climate change targets. DECC is working with Ofgem to review the regulatory framework governing networks and ensure DNOs support our targets, including through the current price control review. DECC is also working with Ofgem to encourage more innovation in the grid through the low carbon network fund and through direct engagement with DNOs on smart grids.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what targets his Department has for the reduction of end-user energy consumption. [293868]

Joan Ruddock: Across the whole economy reducing end-use energy consumption through increased efficiency is a crucial part of our strategy to meet emissions reduction targets.

In the short-term we have targets to increase the energy efficiency of housing by at least 20 per cent. from a 2000 baseline and to cut annual residential carbon emissions by 3.5MtC (12.8MtCO_2) by 2010 from a 1990 baseline. We are on track to meet both of these targets.

In the longer term, the recently published UK Low Carbon Transition Plan sets out our ambitious plans for increasing efficiency and reducing emissions to meet our emissions targets under the framework of carbon budgets. We expect policies driving energy efficiency and the provision of low carbon energy, will reduce emissions from homes by 29 per cent. and from workplaces by 12 per cent. by 2022.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce end-user energy consumption. [293869]

Joan Ruddock: The Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HESS) consultation published in February and consolidated by the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan published in July, set out the steps we are taking to reduce energy consumption and emissions in the UK. These include:

building on existing commitment to make all new homes and non-domestic buildings zero carbon by 2016 and 2019 respectively

our aim for smart meters to be rolled-out to all domestic customers by the end of 2020

and new initiatives to incentivise low carbon energy generation; Feed in Tariffs for electricity and the Renewable Heat Incentive available from 2010 and 2011 respectively

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is the principal driver of energy efficiency improvements in existing homes in Great Britain. We have recently increased the target suppliers must deliver by an additional 20 per cent. to save 185 million tonnes of CO_2. In addition we intend to extend this scheme for a further 21 months from the current end in April 2011 out to the end of 2012 delivering more benefits.

We also recently launched the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) trialling the delivery of energy efficiency measures following a house-by-house, street-by-street approach, and focusing on low income communities.

In the non-domestic sector, the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRCEES) is a new energy efficiency scheme that will be introduced in April 2010. It aims to reduce energy consumption in the business and public sector workplaces through both behaviour and infrastructure change. The CRC will build on the existing Climate Change Levy (CCL) and Climate Change Agreements (CCAs) which encourage businesses to use energy more efficiently and reducing their emissions.

Nuclear Generation Sites

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what analysis the Government has conducted of the effects of *(a)* sea level rises and *(b)* storm surges on present and planned civil nuclear generation sites over the next (i) 100, (ii) 200 and (iii) 300 years; and if he will make a statement. [294036]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 19 October 2009]*: Ensuring the safety of existing nuclear power stations from sea level rise and flood risk (including storm surge) is carried out by the site operators, overseen by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII).

The nuclear licensing regime enforced by the NII requires existing site operators to ensure their sites are safe against sea level rise and storm surge throughout the life of the nuclear power stations, including during decommissioning. As a condition of each nuclear site licence the operator must review the site safety case at regular intervals (typically on a 10 year basis), taking account of the most recent climate change projections and to make any necessary modifications to flood defences and operating arrangements.

For new nuclear power stations the Government is running a Strategic Siting Assessment (SSA) to identify sites that are potentially suitable for deployment by 2025. The government response to the consultation on the SSA criteria and process

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49865.pdf

outlined that nominated sites would be assessed against their capacity to be protected against flood risk, tsunami and storm surge throughout its lifetime, including the potential effects of climate change, allowing for the safe and secure storage of all the spent fuel and intermediate level waste produced from operation and decommissioning until it can be sent for final disposal in a geological disposal facility (GDF). The nominations are available at:

www.nuclearpowersiting.gov.uk

The SSA will look at the capacity of nominated sites to withstand flood risk and storm surge to 2100 using climate change modelling data from UK Climate Projections 09 (UKCP09).

Predictions of potential climate change impacts become less certain the further into the future the assessments are for, and it is not practicable to consider for existing or potential stations beyond 2100 at this stage. However, the SSA assessment will also consider the adaptability of the proposed flood protection mechanism to changes in the demand to give confidence that if the current predictions are revised, modifications to the defences are practicable, and as set out above all licensed stations are subject to periodic review which takes the most recent climate change projections into account.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 21 October 2009

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Investigations

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the average length of an investigation by the Electoral Commission has been since the Commission's establishment. [294338]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that in April 2008, it introduced a three stage approach to handling potential breaches of the party and election finance laws. First, it conducts an initial assessment using set criteria to determine whether the matter should become casework. Second, the vast majority of matters that become casework are dealt with as 'case reviews'. Finally, a small number of cases, where the matter is more complex, or may involve the use of statutory powers, are dealt with as 'investigations'.

Between 1 April 2008 and 16 October 2009, the Commission assessed 155 potential cases. Over that period, initial assessments were completed in an average of 11 days against a seven day target. The Commission has met the seven day target for matters assessed since July 2009. It also conducted 49 case reviews, which were completed in an average of 69 days against a target of 90 days. The Commission undertook two investigations, which averaged 386 days, against a target of completing 90 per cent. of investigations within 180 days.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294687]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All travel is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code.

Expenditure on hotel and other privately provided accommodation is not held separately or by categories requested on the Department's accounting system. This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information relating to overseas travel by Ministers is published on an annual basis by the Cabinet Office. It can be found at the following web link:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Gun Sports: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding Sport England has provided for training of *(a)* pistol shooters and *(b)* shooters of other weapons in the last 12 months. [294717]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England advise that over the past 12 months they have awarded the English Target Shooting Federation (ETSF) £194,726 in funding. This funding forms part of a wider £343,000 award made to the ETSF in 2007 to support the English shooting team at the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

The award is paid over three years from 2007 until 2010 and relates to the rifle, pistol, shotgun and full bore disciplines. It supports coaching, sport science training camps, athlete personal awards, warm weather training and general support costs.

The proportion of the award that is used to fund pistol shooting is an issue which is determined by the ETSF rather than Sport England.

Licensing Act 2003

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will consider the introduction of a more flexible time limit for the granting of temporary event notices under the Licensing Act 2003; [294470]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of voluntary organisations which did not submit temporary event notice applications under the Licensing Act 2003 within the 10 day time limit in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; [294471]

(3) if he will consider the merits of amending the Licensing Act 2003 to allow a temporary event notice to be granted when the required period of notice has not been given, subject to terms and conditions. [294472]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is indeed willing to consider the introduction of some flexibility on the period of notice required for a temporary event notice (TEN) under the Licensing Act 2003. We are currently developing a proposal, in discussion with a group of stakeholders, that would give the police discretion to validate a TEN for an event that they consider to be low-risk when that TEN was otherwise invalid because it was issued without the minimum notice. We hope to commence a three-month consultation on this proposal, along with other simplification proposals, before the end of the year.

We do not hold figures on the number of voluntary organisations that did not submit TENs within the 10 day time limit. However, the consultation will include an impact assessment containing a broad estimate of the number of events that may be affected by the proposed change, and the estimated economic impact. The consultation will invite comment on these estimates.

National Lottery: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each of the National Lottery distributors spent on *(a)* surveys and *(b)* Government relations in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [294733]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is not held centrally, and to collect this would incur disproportionate cost.

National Lottery: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent staff each National Lottery distributor employs. [294734]

Mr. Simon: Staff numbers are provided in each Distributor's Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library.

Olympic Games: Gun Sports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether there are plans to allow the British Olympic shooting team to train at Bisley. [294718]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Bisley has been identified by London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games as a pre-games training camp for London 2012 shooting and is already used by the British shooting squad in the rifle and shotgun disciplines. Decisions on the British Olympic shooting team will not take place until a few months before the London 2012 games and their use of the facilities at Bisley will be determined by the national governing body of the sport.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's sponsored bodies attended party political conferences in 2009; and how much they spent at the *(a)* Liberal Democrat, *(b)* Labour and *(c)* Conservative party conferences. [292948]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Sports: Public Participation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on its *(a)* Active People Survey 1 and *(b)* Active People Survey 2. [294732]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Active People Surveys were delivered and funded by Sport England. The cost of Active People Survey 1 was £5,538,145. The cost of Active People Survey 2 was £3,152,272. DCMS provided a financial contribution of £885,274 to Active People Survey 2.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church Commissioners: Land

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many acres of the Church Commissioners' strategic land portfolio are *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [294163]

Sir Stuart Bell: This portfolio contains 4,089 acres, all in the UK.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what acreage of land has comprised the Church Commissioners' strategic land portfolio in each of the last five years. [294164]

Sir Stuart Bell: The strategic portfolio has only been split from the rural portfolio over the past two years. It comprised 3,287 acres at the end of 2007 and 3,640 acres at the end of 2008.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much of the Church Commissioners' assets were held in their strategic land portfolio *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas in each of the last five years. [294166]

Sir Stuart Bell: 2.5 per cent. at the end of 2007 and 1.8 per cent. at the end of 2008, all in the UK.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the policy of the Church Commissioners is on the use of land which is owned by them for the production of food. [294170]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners' farm land is let to tenants on Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 Tenancies and Farm Business Tenancies.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many acres of the Church Commissioners' rural let land portfolio has been transferred to their rural strategic land portfolio in each of the last five years. [294171]

Sir Stuart Bell: 349 acres were transferred in 2008 and 514 acres have been transferred in 2009.

Publications

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 326W, on Lambeth Palace, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Church Commissioners' policy on the publication of information. [294477]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners do not have a formal policy document on the publication of housing costs. Total see house costs are published but, given the range of property types and given that the majority of costs are incurred during a vacancy, we do not publish expenditure on individual houses.

Register of Interests

Mr. Gibb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners if he will place in the Library a copy of the register of interests of members of the Church Commissioners' Assets Committee. [294306]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners make the Register available for inspection on their premises by Members of Parliament and others upon request. I am pleased to invite the hon. Gentleman to make an appointment to come to Church House and inspect the Register.

TRANSPORT

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the sale value of the Dartford River Crossing; and what assumptions he made in relation to *(a)* the level of tolls charged, *(b)* vehicle movements and *(c)* other factors in making that estimate. [294222]

Mr. Khan: No estimate of the saleable value of the Dartford River Crossing has been made. Any such valuation would depend on the nature of any commercial agreements for a sale, including, but not exclusively, the length of those arrangements, the level of future charges and forecast future traffic volumes. The assumptions made around those issues are the same as those which would be made for normal business planning purposes.

Departmental Advertising

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on which initiatives of his Department and its agencies expenditure on advertising has been incurred in each of the last five years; how much was spent on each such initiative; and which such initiatives were offered for tender through the Central Office of Information. [292530]

Chris Mole: Expenditure for the Department for Transport's advertising campaigns from the 2004-05 fiscal year is in the following table. The majority of campaign advertising investment by the Department is in support of the THINK! road safety and the Act on CO2 campaigns. Major advertising investment by Executive Agencies has been by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, for the sale of marks, vehicle excise duty enforcement and electronic vehicle licensing.

£

Organisation	*Campaign*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
DfT(C)	THINK!	8.75 million	11.57 million	[1]7.42 million 1.78 million	[1]11.67 million	[1]12.65 million
	Transport Direct	240,000	865,000	405,000	[1]32,000 370,000	[1]629,000 42,000
	Act on CO2	—	—	[1]2.49 million 1.1 million	[1]3.56 million	[1]4.7 million
	Airport Security	—	—	—	[1]1.01 million	—
DVLA	Sale of Marks	2.534 million	2.335 million	3.006 million	3.124 million	3.55 million
	VED Enforcement	[1]5.961 million	[1]4.165 million	[1]5.596 million	3.754 million	[1]3.791 million
	Accelerated Issue of Harmonised Registration Certificate	[1]1.424 million	[1]1.211 million	—	—	—
	Electronic Vehicle Licensing	—	—	—	[1]2.445 million	[1]2.415 million
	Others	[1]1.026 million	[1]677,000	[1]799,000	[1]676,000	[1]982,000
HA	Introduction of Traffic Officer Service	—	330,000	—	—	—
	Traffic Radio Print Advertising	—	—	—	99,000	—
	Safety, Strategy and Research Advertising	—	—	—	12,000	—
	Severe Weather Advertising	—	—	—	[1]40,000 6,000	—
	Roadworker Safety Campaign	—	—	—	—	60,600
	'Don't be that Guy' campaign	—	—	—	—	67,000
	Pedestrian Intrusion Campaign	—	—	—	—	[1]29,700
	Dartford Crossing	—	—	—	—	74,600
	Summer Getaway	—	—	—	—	63,400
GCDA	Advertising car and dispatch services	—	5,000	0,500	—	2,800
MCA	Dial 999 for the Coastguard	9,100	15,500	9,900	15,100	117,700
VCA	N/A	—	—	—	—	—
VOSA	N/A	—	—	—	—	—
DSA	Passplus	[1]32,000	[1]15,000	[1]148,000	[1]14,200	[1]6,500
	Learning to Drive	—	—	—	[1]52,600	[1]349,300
	Driver CPC	—	—	—	[1]4,500	[1]118,700
	Enhanced Rider Scheme	—	—	—	[1]20,000	[1]51,300

£

Organisation	*Campaign*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
	Eco-Safe DSA	—	—	—	—	[1]4,500

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[1] Procured via The Central Office of Information.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what IT systems have been in development for use within his Department in the last five years; what the reason for the development of each system was; how much has been spent on the development of each system; and which systems have been subsequently *(a)* implemented, *(b)* terminated prior to implementation and *(c)* terminated following implementation. [290587]

Chris Mole: No central records are kept showing all ICT systems, and such a list could only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, tables showing the main systems for the Department for Transport (Central) and its Agencies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost of maintaining and updating its Twitter account; and how many staff are responsible for updating the account. [292051]

Chris Mole: There have been no additional costs to date for the creation and maintenance of the Department for Transport corporate Twitter channel:

http://www.twitter.com/transportgovuk

No additional staff have been recruited and maintenance of the Twitter channel is being managed within the existing communications budget. The task is the responsibility of the departmental communications team as a whole as part of their overall range of duties; no staff are assigned to Twitter work specifically.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority: Advertising

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will review the extent of the need for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to advertise its services on the radio. [294144]

Paul Clark: Radio commercials allow for detailed targeted messages at an affordable cost and the Department of Transport has had a good deal of success with radio campaigns. For example, since the start of the recent promotion of the Driver Licence online service campaign, there has been an approximate increase of 25 per cent. on licences issued online.

Radio can reach more people at a lower price than television advertising, with, therefore an increased return on investment.

A review of the extent of this advertising is not considered necessary at this time.

East Cost Railway Line

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many new diesel trains the Secretary of State intends to procure for the new company issuing services on the East Coast Main Line; and when the *(a)* first and *(b)* last of these orders are likely to be (i) placed and (ii) delivered. [294049]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* The Department for Transport does not intend to procure any diesel trains for services on the East Coast Main Line.

However, as part of the Intercity Express Programme, the Department is procuring new electric and bi-mode (electric and diesel) Super Express Trains to operate services on the East Coast and the Great Western Main Line from 2014.

This follows the electrification announcement by the Secretary of State in July 2009. Bi-mode trains utilise the electric wires where available and continue beyond the wires using the diesel engine. An announcement on the placing of orders for Super Express Trains will be made in due course.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293478]

Chris Mole: One of the Department for Transport's non-departmental public bodies, Passenger Focus, sent representatives to the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative party conferences in 2009.

Railways: Birmingham

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations his Department has received on proposals for a high-speed rail hub at Birmingham International Airport. [293638]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* Since the creation of High Speed Two, the Department for Transport has received two specific written representations with "High speed rail hub at Birmingham International Airport" as a subject heading. The Department receives general correspondence covering many policy areas, including high speed rail and the cities it may serve, from a number of individuals, organisations and companies.

High Speed Two's work will include consideration of a range of route options between London and the West Midlands, as well as the access to central London and the other cities served.

Road Signs and Markings

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when blue driver location signs were introduced by his Department; how many have been installed on the road network to date; and at what cost to the public purse. [294145]

Chris Mole: For more than 30 years, distance marker posts have been provided at 100 metre intervals along each hard shoulder of motorways. Marker posts enable maintenance contractors to identify exactly where repair works are needed. They also show the direction to the nearest motorway emergency phone.

Driver Location Signs were introduced in 2003 and approximately 16,000 signs have been installed on 80 per cent. of the motorway network at a cost of £5.9 million. During 2009-10 signs are being installed on the remaining parts of the Motorway Network at an additional cost of £1.6 million.

Driver Location Signs are more visible to the travelling public and this enables:

Motorists to quickly identify their location.

Emergency Services to get to incident scenes more quickly due to them receiving more accurate incident location information.

Research carried out on trial sections showed that response times of emergency service organisations were 10 per cent. quicker than previous responses to similar incidents. Getting the emergency services to the scene of an incident more efficiently ultimately leads to incidents being cleared more quickly.

Waterloo Station

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made on negotiations for franchise commuter train services arriving at and departing from at platform 20 at London Waterloo station; and when he expects those negotiations to be concluded. [289499]

Chris Mole: We are working with Network Rail to extend platforms at Waterloo station and across the whole south western network to increase capacity on some suburban routes from eight to ten carriage trains by 2014.

As part of this, we are investigating how Waterloo and Waterloo International Terminal platforms 20 to 24 can be used to help increase capacity on the network. Work has been carried out on platform 20 and option development work is now progressing on other platforms and enhancing the tracks outside the station to support the increase in capacity.

The Department for Transport is in discussion with Stagecoach South West Trains with regard to additional rolling stock and service enhancements for operating longer trains into Waterloo that are value for money and affordable for the taxpayer.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payment cheques were issued by the Rural Payments Agency for amounts less than *(a)* £60, *(b)* £40, *(c)* £20, *(d)* £10 and *(e)* £1 in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2009. [291921]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of single payment scheme (SPS) cheque payments issued by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for the bands and scheme years specified in the question are as follows:

	Number of payments		
Band	*SPS 2006*	*SPS 2007*	*SPS 2008*[1]
£40.01-£60.00	2,417	807	299
£20.01-£40.00	1,861	492	122
£10.01-£20.00	546	69	14
£1.01-£10.00	80	14	3
£0.01-£1.00	2	6	3

[1] A change in EU Regulations meant that RPA stopped making payments by cheque on 15 October 2008. All payments are now made via BACS.

Payment for the 2009 SPS scheme year commences on 1 December.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at how many premises registered to house *(a)* cattle and *(b)* camelids his officials have been refused entry for the purpose of bovine tuberculosis (i) testing, (ii) tracing and (iii) following up of confirmed disease in each of the last 10 years. [293639]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA does not hold figures on the number of people who have refused entry to officials for the purpose of TB testing (including tracing tests).

Movement Restrictions are placed on any farms which refuse to comply when cattle testing is overdue.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department and its predecessor of *(a)* research into bovine tuberculosis, *(b)* support from (i) local authority health officers and (ii) the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in respect of bovine tuberculosis and (c) any other support provided in respect of bovine tuberculosis (A) between 1986 and 1996 and (B) since 1997. [293640]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows.

Research

The table provides a summary of TB research cost to the Department from 1998 to 2008-09 and the amount spent on the surveillance contract with the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) and on the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT).

TB expenditure on research between 1998 and 2009 (GB)

£ million

	RBCT[1]	*VLA*[2]	*Other research*
1998-99	2.9	1.9	2.5
1999-2000	4.6	2.4	3.8
2000-01	6.6	3.5	5.3
2001-02	6	3.7	6.1
2002-03	6.6	4.1	6.5
2003-04	7.3	5.3	7

TB expenditure on research between 1998 and 2009 (GB)

£ million

	RBCT[1]	*VLA*[2]	*Other research*
2004-05	7.2	4.9	5.7
2005-06	6.2	7.5	6.5
2006-07	1.6	7.5	7.8
2007-08	0.03	7	8.5
2008-09	0	5.9	7.7

[1] Figure does not include research into culling methods or the badger population survey (£709,400 in 2005-06 and £834,700 in 2006-07).

[2] Surveillance activity undertaken by the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA) includes all DEFRA funded work carried out by the VLA relating to TB in cattle and badgers including the supply of Tuberculin.

Note:

All financial data are actual expenditure only which have been incurred in the specified financial year.

A finance review of all bTB expenditure and income in the last 10 years has recently been undertaken. The review has validated all data associated with bovine Tuberculosis expenditure to improve the quality of data provided. As such the table above has been amended to reflect the outcome of the review. This is also available on the DEFRA website.

We are unable to provide figures prior to 1998.

Council health officers and VLA

DEFRA does not receive financial support from local council health officers or the Veterinary Laboratories Agency in respect of bovine tuberculosis, however we are committed to tackling this disease in partnership with all DEFRA's delivery bodies and the local authorities.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to bringing *(a)* camelids, *(b)* sheep, *(c)* goats and *(d)* pigs within the scope of the regulatory regime for control of tuberculosis in England. [293677]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA takes TB in all species, not just cattle, seriously and is committed to dealing with it. Existing legal provisions do allow DEFRA to restrict movements to and from any herd/flock of farmed (mammalian) species suspected of being infected by bovine tuberculosis—so as to reduce the risk of disease spread. In resolving TB problems in such species, DEFRA relies on the co-operation of animal owners to agree testing, slaughter and compensation arrangements.

A review to identify possible new controls that might help better control TB risks to/from non-bovine species is in hand. Any new policy would need to be effective, affordable and proportionate to the animal and public health risks.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of average payment per head to abattoirs for the dispatch of bovine tuberculosis reactor, inconclusive or dangerous contact cattle *(a)* between 1986 and 1996 and *(b)* since 1997. [293799]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No such estimate has been made. For most cattle compulsorily slaughtered on TB control grounds, DEFRA has received a net payment from abattoirs rather than incurred a cost.

Meat Hygiene Service officials inspect carcasses of such cattle when slaughtered in licensed abattoirs, a small proportion of TB affected cattle are condemned as unfit for human consumption e.g. if TB lesions are identified in more than one part of the carcase. In such cases DEFRA does makes a payment to the abattoir to cover its disposal costs. It is not possible to provide details of slaughter costs in the form requested: typically an abattoir will receive batches of cattle being slaughtered on disease control grounds rather than single animals—if one (or more) of these animals is condemned, the cost to DEFRA will be offset by the total salvage value received from those passed as fit for human consumption.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been slaughtered as bovine tuberculosis reactors, inconclusives or dangerous contacts in each financial year since 1986. [293800]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides the number of cattle slaughtered in England as bovine tuberculosis reactors, inconclusive reactors and direct contacts. Data for these three categories of reactors are available in calendar years for 1998 to 2008.

I am unable to provide data for TB reactors, inconclusives or direct contacts before 1998.

	Reactors slaughtered	*Inconclusive reactors slaughtered*	*Direct contact reactors slaughtered*	*Total animals slaughtered under Bovine TB measures*
2008	26,038	487	930	27,455
2007	18,543	444	807	19,794
2006	14,585	361	1,061	16,007
2005	20,145	413	2,577	23,135
2004	15,093	351	1,862	17,306
2003	15,120	454	1,977	17,551
2002	15,482	580	2,381	18,443
2001	3,804	154	480	4,438
2000	6,029	210	951	7,190
1999	5,929	250	863	7,042
1998	4,102	201	724	5,027

Note:

2008 data were downloaded from DEFRA's Animal Health database (Vetnet) on 2 March 2009.

2007-05 data were downloaded on 18 March 2008.

2004-1998 data were downloaded on 7 March 2006.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable he has set for the bovine tuberculosis vaccination of badgers project; and what steps he has taken to encourage *(a)* farmers and *(b)* landowners to participate in the project. [293892]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is as follows.

Timetable

The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) has begun to sign up farmers in the selected areas to participate in the project, and contractors to carry out vaccination are being recruited though an EU tender. Vaccination will begin in summer 2010, when the vaccine is expected to be licensed, and will take place for at least five years in each area. Sign-up and vaccination in the areas will be phased in over two years to allow time to train contractors. A chart showing the phasing process will be placed in the Library shortly.

Encouraging farmers and landowners

Communication is an important part of the project. Following is an outline of our communications which are aimed at informing all stakeholders of the details of the project and encouraging participation.

> DEFRA and Fera held meetings earlier this year with local vets and key regional representatives to inform them and enable vets to talk to their clients about the project. We have established a regular newsletter to keep local vets, regional representatives and others up to date.
>
> An inquiries phoneline and e-mail address have been set up and publicised.
>
> A new website has been launched, which gives an opportunity for farmers to sign up.
>
> Literature has been produced. This literature is also being distributed to farmers through DEFRA's Livestock Market Roadshow this autumn.
>
> The project team have given a presentation on the project to farmers at one local veterinary practice meeting, with opportunity for sign-up and will be doing the same with at least one further practice.
>
> To encourage farmers to participate, Fera are writing to all cattle farmers within the selected areas to invite them to apply to take part in the project and to attend local meetings to find out more. The first of these meetings has been held.
>
> Articles have been published in DEFRA's magazine for farmers and another is planned for the new year.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1810-11W, on departmental air travel, what the figures are for each entry in the table for which the abbreviation tbc was used. [287354]

Dan Norris: Responsibility for the provision of carbon offsetting data for Government Departments and other public sector bodies transferred to the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on its creation in October 2008. I refer the right hon. Member to information on the DECC website at:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/whatwedo/icuk/cosoffsetting/govdata/govdata.aspx

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June 2009. [288915]

Dan Norris: The percentage of invoices from suppliers the core-Department paid within 10 days of receipt in June, July, August 2009 was 99.8 per cent., 99.8 per cent. and 100 per cent. respectively.

Departmental Manpower

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292062]

Dan Norris: The information is as follows:

(a) DEFRA's predecessor departments in 1997 were the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and the Department of the Environment. The number of staff employed by each Government Department and Agency in 1997 has been published by Cabinet Office (Tables 1A-1D) and is available on-line:

> http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/css97_tcm6-2540.pdf

(b) The latest staffing figures are as at 30 June 2009 and are available at:

> http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

DEFRA was created on 8 June 2001 from MAFF and approximately 650 staff from the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). On 3 October 2008, approximately 320 DEFRA staff transferred to the newly-created Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

Departmental Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many properties owned by his Department were liable for payment of *(a)* business rates and *(b)* empty property rates in each of the last five years; and what the bill for each was in each such year. [290529]

Dan Norris: The information is in the following tables.

DEFRA Freehold rate liabilities for 2005-10

	Number of properties	*With a liability of (£)*
2005-06	32	3,301,468
2006-07	31	3,442,168
2007-08	40	5,408,038
2008-09	40	4,196,976
2009-10	35	4,442,386
Total		20,791,036

Empty property relief for 2005-10

	Number of properties	*With a liability of (£)*
2005-06	2	24,095
2006-07	3	13,477
2007-08	1	1,006
2008-09	1	94,551
2009-10	n/a	n/a
Total		133,131

Departmental Pay

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many staff in his Department received remuneration including benefits of £100,000 or more in 2008-09; [291842]

(2) how many of his Department's staff received annual remuneration including benefits of £100,000 or more in 2008-09. [291850]

Dan Norris: The table shows the number of staff (excludes workers employed under a contract for services) who received remuneration[1], including benefits of £100,000 or more in 2008-09, in core-DEFRA and its Executive agencies, Animal Health (AH), Veterinary Medicines

Directorate (VMD), Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA), Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Rural Payments Agency (RPA), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) and the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA).

[1] For the purposes of responding to the question, remuneration has been interpreted as including base salary, bonuses, allowances and superannuation costs.

Department/agency	*Number of staff receiving remuneration, including benefits of £100,000 or more in 2008-09*
Core-DEFRA	75
AH	4
VMD	1
MFA	1
RPA	2
VLA	3
CEFAS	1
FERA	4

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on Royal Mail services in each of the last two years. [288734]

Dan Norris: The combined spend of core-DEFRA and the DEFRA executive agencies from information held centrally is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2007-08	5.58
2008-09	5.32

Departmental Procurement

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Glover Report in its procurement processes. [287138]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's progress in implementing the 12 recommendations in the Glover Report is:

R1. By 2010, contract opportunities above £20,000 across the whole public sector should be advertised electronically with standard indicative contract value ranges, and accessible through a single, free, easy to search online portal.

This is being implemented as part of the DEFRA's Integrated Commercial Strategy and will go live in 2010.

R2. Government should issue all tender documentation electronically by 2010 and this should be kept as brief as possible. Businesses should be permitted to tender electronically for all public sector contracts by 2010; no "paper only" tenders should be required after this date, with an ambition for all tenders to be electronic by 2012.

This too will be implemented as part of our Integrated Commercial Strategy. We are planning to be fully compliant well in advance of the 2012 deadline.

R3. Details of contract awardees should be published online in a standard format within 48 days of contract signature, accessible via the single portal by 2010.

DEFRA has dedicated procurement pages on its external website and will include information on contracts awarded. It is DEFRA's intention to provide this information through the cross Government online portal.

R4. Tendering opportunities thought especially suitable for small and medium-sized enterprises or consortia of SMEs should be flagged by the procurer during the advertising process. Government should provide strategic and detailed guidance for procuring authorities on assessing suitable contracts for flagging, based on risk, value and market maturity.

Tendering opportunities for Government contracts are governed by the principles of Managing Public Money and the public procurement directives. DEFRA very much welcomes the participation of SMEs either individually or collectively. It is a key element of our Integrated Commercial Strategy to maximise the diversity of our supplier base including SMEs or consortia thereof and the structuring of all procurements will be done in such a way as to encourage this. We will also be encouraging prime contractors to optimise the use of SMEs in their sub-contracting.

R5. Qualification criteria that are not specific to a sector should be standardised and incorporated in all pre-qualification questionnaires so that businesses do not need to repeatedly submit the same core information in different formats.

DEFRA has included this as a requirement within the Integrated Commercial Strategy. Technical solutions for storing and disseminating supplier data and criteria are being considered as part of this process. It is expected that this will be fully in place by late autumn 2010.

R6. Procurers should give businesses the opportunity to provide details of all previous relevant experience when bidding for contracts, not just public sector experience. This should be taken into account when selecting successful tenderers.

DEFRA has already introduced this within current tender processes.

R7. Procurers should ensure that, where they rely on a particular accreditation scheme or standard as part of the process of prequalification or contract award, that they take a flexible approach. Businesses should be given the opportunity to provide evidence that they can meet the contract requirements by reference to other similar equivalent accreditations or standards they may already hold—especially where these have been recognised or required by other public sector procurers.

DEFRA has already introduced this within current tender processes.

R8. Departments should use their Innovation Procurement Plans to set out how procurement aligns with their overall commercial strategy, encourages innovation and gives advanced notice of long-term procurement plans.

DEFRA is finalising an Innovation Procurement Plan and expect to be able to issue this as part of its Integrated Commercial Strategy. Innovation in procurement is itself one of the key objectives of developing this strategy.

R9. Government should encourage wider use of outcome-based specifications across the public sector, as a means of driving innovation.

DEFRA has already introduced this within current tender processes.

R10. Government should expect and enable prime contractors to make their subcontracting opportunities accessible through the single, online portal created in Recommendation 1.

DEFRA will be encouraging this as part of its Integrated Commercial Strategy.

R11. Through contract management, Government should ensure that SMEs and other firms acting as sub-contractors obtain contract conditions, including promptness of payment terms that are no worse than those applicable to the prime contractor.

DEFRA already includes this requirement within all major contracts and is incorporating it into standard terms and conditions for all contracts.

R12. The Committee recommends that all central Government Departments should report annually on the value of their contract spend with SMEs, creating a reliable single source of quantitative data which can be used to inform future policy decisions and evaluate the recommendations in this report.

DEFRA now has a system in place that allows it to record full records of its suppliers including a classification for SMEs. It is expected that reporting will be available by or before March 2010.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293239]

Dan Norris: The Department has been asked by the Office of Government Commerce to provide them by the end of financial year 2009-10 with the actual figure and percentage of departmental third party expenditure via small and medium sized enterprises as prime contractors and where they have been engaged through a departmental or pan-governmental framework agreement. This information is being compiled and the analysis will be included in DEFRA's 2010 departmental report.

Departmental Travel

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial cars and drivers, *(b)* taxis, *(c)* train travel, *(d)* the use of helicopters, *(e)* airline tickets and *(f)* chartered aeroplanes in each year since 1997. [289066]

Dan Norris: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The Government Car and Despatch Agency is respon[illegible] for providing ministerial cars and drivers. I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Chris Mole) of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1218-1220W.

From information held centrally, the core-Department's expenditure on taxis for the financial year 2006-07 onwards is:

Financial year	£
2006-07	268,095
2007-08	346,458
2008-09	299,401
2009-10 to September	59,996

From information held centrally, the core-Department's expenditure on air and train travel from July 2006 is:

	£	
	Air	*Rail*
July 2006-March 2007	1,107,106	1,868,731
April 2007-March 2008	1,505,097	1,978,850
April 2008-March 2009	1,049,256	1,733,417
April 2009-August 2009	663,886	936,916

There is no information held centrally on the use of helicopters and chartered aeroplanes.

Dogs

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many attacks by dogs on people of each age category were reported in each of the last five years. [293657]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under section 3(1) and 3(3) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table. The information provides both the number of cases where injuries were inflicted and also the number of cases where no injuries were inflicted.

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice does not hold specific information on the age of the victims beyond descriptions provided by the statutes under which prosecutions are brought.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales 2003-07[1,2]

		Found guilty				
Offence description	*Section of the Act*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	S.3(1)	302	350	403	458	456
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	S.3(1)	171	167	168	160	205
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	S.3(3)	33	23	25	29	27

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for selected offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, England and Wales 2003-07[1,2]

		Found guilty				
Offence description	*Section of the Act*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	S.3(3)	10	5	9	11	15
Total		516	547	605	658	703

[1] The number proceeded against and number found guilty statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis unit—Office for Criminal Justice

Domestic Waste: Fixed Penalties

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to issue new statutory guidance to waste collection authorities to curtail the issuing of fixed penalty notices against households for minor breaches of the rules in relation to the disposal of household waste. [294620]

Dan Norris: Local authorities are not obliged by Government or the guidance we issue to impose fixed penalties. While we would expect them to be proportionate in their use of these powers, how they use these powers is entirely a matter for individual local authorities.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have introduced wheeled refuse containers for the collection of household waste, according to records held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [294450]

Dan Norris: I have placed the list of local authorities operating residual collections in wheeled bins for 2008-09 in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 229W, on the Futuresource Conference, what the cost of the quantitative and qualitative research commissioned by the Waste and Resources Action Programme on Principles of a good collection service was; and which contractors provided the research. [294457]

Dan Norris: The quantitative and qualitative research, carried out by Brook Lyndhurst and ICM on behalf of the Local Government Association and the Waste and Resources Action Programme, cost £38,600. The research was to ensure that the principles of a good recycling service, called for by the fifth report (2006-07) of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, were firmly based on evidence of the views and priorities of the public.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance or advice the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has issued on the operation of *(a)* closed-lid policies and *(b)* no side waste policies in respect of the collection of household waste, other than in its guidance on alternative weekly collections. [294467]

Dan Norris: WRAP has published no additional guidance on either subject.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what pilot programmes involving the weighing of household refuse containers have been supported by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme to date. [294615]

Dan Norris: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has supported pilot programmes involving the weighing of household refuse containers.

However, WRAP is preparing a review of such weighing systems to assess their suitability for use in reward schemes such as 'Recyclebank.'

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued on the use of (a) 140 litre and (b) 240 litre household wheeled refuse containers. [294621]

Dan Norris: The Government believe local authorities are best placed to make waste management strategy decisions for their local areas. It has issued no such guidance but does encourage local authorities to consult extensively with residents to ensure their opinions and preferences are taken into consideration.

WRAP has issued no such guidance.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment the Waste and Resources Action Programme has made of household waste collections in overseas countries on *(a)* three-weekly or *(b)* four-weekly collection cycles. [294964]

Dan Norris: No such assessment has been made by the Waste and Resources Action Programme.

Food: Origin Marking

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in his Department's discussions with supermarkets on a voluntary scheme for country of origin food labelling. [292405]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA Ministers have raised the issue of country of origin labelling with the representatives of the main supermarkets. The supermarkets have agreed to comply with the Food Standards Agency's guidance on this issue.

The pigmeat and pigmeat products sector is of particular public concern. A sub-group of the Pig Meat Supply Chain Task Force that was established by DEFRA in March to include all elements of the supply chain, is in the process of drafting an industry wide voluntary code of practice on origin labelling with the aim of implementing it early next year.

Hill Farming

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely prospects for financial viability in the hill farming sector in the next 10 years. [293180]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State has not made any particular assessment of the financial viability of the hill farming sector in the next 10 years.

Shortly, we will publish the most recent data from the Farm Business survey showing farm incomes by farm type, including hill farms, in the year ended February 2009.

Early next year, DEFRA will be publishing forecasts of farm income in England for the year ending February 2010, by farm type, including hill farms.

Litter

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what policies his Department has in place to reduce levels of littering in England. [293627]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Local Environment Quality Surveys for England since 2001 show that while there has been some improvement in that time nearly a fifth of areas surveyed still fall below satisfactory levels for litter and about a quarter of people surveyed admit to littering. Each year the Government funds the campaigning charity Keep Britain Tidy (£5 million in 2009-10) to raise awareness of the problem, campaign for changes in behaviour and offer technical support and advice to national, regional and local government.

Local authorities, who have a legal duty to clear litter from public places, have been given the powers they need to tackle those that litter, most recently through provisions in the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005. Information and guidance is provided to local authorities to help them to improve their enforcement and street cleansing services.

Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what projects are being funded by the Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in 2009-10. [294720]

Dan Norris: Projects commissioned in 2008-09 and drawing funds from the Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in 2009-10 are:

	Project
MEPF 08/02	Marine Aggregate Integrated Assessment.
MEPF 08/P14	Marine Aggregates supply as part of a sustainable mix.
MEPF 08/P27	Derek the Dredger and the Marine Biologists.
MEPF 08/P33	Mitigation of Marine Aggregate Dredging Impacts—Benchmarking Equipment, Practices and Technologies against Global Best Practice.
MEPF 08/P37	Effects of aggregate dredging on marine food web structure and function.
MEPF 08/P39	Impacts of Marine Aggregate Extraction on Adjacent "Sabellaria spinulosa" aggregations and Other Benthic Fauna.
MEPF 08/P40	Dredging Impacts Verified in Relation to Scientific Evidence(DIVERSE).
MEPF 08/P64	Developing new ground truthing techniques for seabed mapping.
MEPF 08/P70	The development and application of an instrument array to measure the concentration of silt and sand in the overflow from aggregate dredgers.
MEPF 08/P73	Assessment of the distribution and intensity of fishing activities in the vicinity of aggregate extraction sites.
MEPF 08/P75	Best Practice Workshop and Guidelines on Aggregate Ecological Assessments.
MEPF 08/P76	Measuring the effects of suspended particulate matter and smothering on the behaviour, growth and survival of key species found in areas associated with aggregate dredging.
MEPF REC 08/01	2007 REC Data Projects: Analysis and Interpretation Thames Region.
MEPF REC 08/02	2007 REC Data Projects: Analysis and Interpretation South Coast Region.
MEPF REC 08/03	Humber Regional Environmental Characterisation (REC) Programme.
MEPF REC 08/04	East Coast Regional Environmental Characterisation (REC) Programme.
MEPF 07/S05	Communications and Dissemination Co-ordination of MEPF Activities.
MEPF 08/S04-05	Marine ALSF Science Co-ordination Services.
MEPF 08/S04-07	Marine ALSF GIS—enhancements II.
MEPF 08/S05	Fisheries Liaison Co-ordination (Onshore and Offshore) Services for the Regional Environmental Characterisation (REC) Surveys to be conducted in the East Coast and Humber regions.
MEPF 08/S07-03	Project Co-ordination of the Marine ALSF Regional Environmental Characterisation Studies.

A further nine projects are in the process of being commissioned from the Fund in 2009-10 and contracts for these projects have yet to be finalised.

Details of all current and completed projects funded by the Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund are published on the MALSF website at:

http://www.alsf-mepf.org.uk/projects/current-projects.aspx

Milk: Prices

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the average *(a)* farm gate price, *(b)* price given to processors and *(c)* supermarket price of a pint of milk in each of the last 12 months. [294054]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 October 2009]*: The following tables show monthly UK farm gate and retail milk prices. No information is available on prices paid at all other points in the supply chain.

The farm gate price is calculated from monthly surveys of milk purchasers conducted in England and Wales by DEFRA, in Scotland by The Scottish Government Rural and Environment Research and Analysis Directorate (RERAD) and in Northern Ireland by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development DARD. The farm gate price is the average price received by producers, net of delivery charges. No deduction has been made for superlevy.

UK farm gate milk price

	Units: pence per pint
September 2008	15
October 2008	16
November 2008	15
December 2008	15
January 2009	15
February 2009	14
March 2009	14
April 2009	13
May 2009	12
June 2009	13
July 2009	13
August 2009	13

Source:
DEFRA.

The average retail price of milk published by the Office for National Statistics represents the average across all outlets (including delivered milk) rather than just supermarkets.

UK average retail price of pasteurised whole milk

	Units: pence per pint
September 2008	42
October 2008	45
November 2008	45
December 2008	45
January 2009	45
February 2009	44
March 2009	44
April 2009	44
May 2009	44
June 2009	44
July 2009	44
August 2009	44

Source:
ONS.

Noise: Pollution Control

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made on implementing its plans for a noise reduction strategy; and if he will make a statement. [293600]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive (END) has been the Department's main focus of activity regarding noise. In meeting the requirements of the END, we are progressing Noise Action Plans, and this is helping to refine existing policy as evidence on the effects of noise continues to emerge. The Government are in the process of consolidating their longer term noise management policies, some of which can be found in the draft noise action plans, and determining how these could be best delivered.

Pet Travel Scheme

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will conduct a risk assessment of the extent to which the importation of dogs infected with echinococcus multilocularis might be increased if the requirement for treatment with Praziquantel under the Pet Travel Scheme were relaxed. [294030]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Commission's proposal for an 18-month extension to the derogation which allows the UK to operate its current pet movement controls also includes provisions for the control of other diseases, such as echinococcus multilocularis. The Government will need to conduct a risk assessment to assess UK exposure to the parasite if the requirement for Praziquantel tapeworm treatment is removed. Should the evidence justify it, this would form part of the case to retain current controls.

Rural Areas: Low Incomes

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* English farming households and *(b)* households in rural areas with incomes below the low income threshold. [291906]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is as follows:

(a) In 2007-08 for England, 25 per cent. of farm households were below the modified low income threshold (gross income before housing costs).

(b) In 2007-08 for England 18 per cent. of rural households were below the low income threshold (gross income before housing costs).

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to Project Reduce to undertake studies of the contents of household refuse containers in the last 12 months. [294614]

Dan Norris: No funding for the undertaking of studies of the contents of households refuse containers has been provided by DEFRA to Project Reduce in the last 12 months. The Waste and Resources Action Programme had no involvement in this project.

Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable has been set for the Environment Agency to establish its new online waste data tracking system. [294612]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency is developing new web-based data reporting software called 'Generic Operator Returns'. This will provide a more efficient and up-to-date method for businesses to provide data to the Environment Agency. Following a successful trial implementation, external web data entry will be phased in from January 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment: Autism

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of adults with autism in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* London Borough of Bexley that are in (i) part-time and (ii) full-time employment. [294260]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claims for employment and support allowance took *(a)* fewer than 11 days, *(b)* between 11 and 40 days and (c) over 40 days to process in each month since the scheme came into operation. [291004]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* We are currently exploring whether we can develop some official statistics on processing times for Employment and Support Allowance new claims in the near future.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of people leaving incapacity benefit began claiming *(a)* incapacity benefit again and *(b)* employment and support allowance within a year of leaving the benefit in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and of those people what percentage were aged (i) 18 to 24, (ii) 25 to 49 and (iii) 50 years and over in each year. [291005]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* The available information has been placed in the Library.

Pension Funds: Trustees

Mr. Doran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research she has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the (i) costs, (ii) feasibility and (iii) effects on pension schemes of implementation proposals to require a minimum 50 per cent. member nominated trustees on the boards of pension funds. [294311]

Angela Eagle: The Department has commissioned a qualitative research study into the costs, feasibility and effects of any potential move to require pension scheme trustee boards to have 50 per cent. member-nominated trustees. The research contractor (BMRB) has now completed interviews with employers, scheme representatives and trade union representatives and is preparing a research report. This is expected to be published in the spring of 2010.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* employment and support allowance, *(c)* severe disablement allowance and *(d)* income support for incapacity undertook permitted work in each of the last 10 years as applicable. [291279]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or income support claimants with permitted work

Year ending February each year		*Number*	*Proportion (percentage)*
2003	Incapacity benefit	10,600	0.4
	Severe disablement allowance	1,400	0.4
	Income support	600	—
2004	Incapacity benefit	27,600	1.1
	Severe disablement allowance	6,700	2.1
	Income support	500	—
2005	Incapacity benefit	31,300	1.3
	Severe disablement allowance	7,400	2.4
	Income support	600	—
2006	Incapacity benefit	35,300	1.4
	Severe disablement allowance	8,000	2.7
	Income support	600	—
2007	Incapacity benefit	39,100	1.6
	Severe disablement allowance	8,300	3.0
	Income support	600	—
2008	Incapacity benefit	40,000	1.7
	Severe disablement allowance	8,400	3.1
	Income support	800	—
2009	Incapacity benefit	39,000	1.8
	Severe disablement allowance	8,600	3.4
	Income support	600	—

Notes:
1. Figures are produced from 5 per cent. sample data and have been uprated to be in line with the 100 per cent. proportions.
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Proportions are rounded to the nearest 1 decimal place.
4. "—" denotes nil or negligible.
5. Data not available in respect of employment and support allowance.
6. Income support permitted work cases are those where the claimant is disabled and earning less than £20 per week.
7. Those claimants with incapacity benefit who are also receiving income support are included in the incapacity benefit figures to avoid double counting.
8. Information on permitted work has only been available since the November 2002 quarter.
9. Permitted work categories (current rates):
a. Permitted Work Lower Level (up to £20 per week for unlimited period).
b. Supported Permitted Work (up to £93 per week for unlimited period (*supported)).
c. Permitted Work Higher Limit (up to £93 per week and < 16 hours for up to 26 weeks).
d. Permitted Work Higher Limit Subsequent (PWHL after 52 week gap (*supported)).
e. * The support must be given by a person employed by a public or local authority or voluntary organisation.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample.

PRIME MINISTER

Serious Fraud Office

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has received representations in respect of the current investigation by the Serious Fraud Office into BAE Systems. [293889]

The Prime Minister: This is a matter for the Serious Fraud Office.

CABINET OFFICE

Advertising Advisory Committee

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 624W, on the Advertising Advisory Committee, if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each Government Strategic Marketing Advisory Board meeting in the last 12 months, redacting commercially confidential elements. [291053]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 14 September 2009]*: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the normal practice of government to disclose detailed information in respect of such discussions.

Damian McBride

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she last met Mr. Damian McBride in the course of her official duties. [287399]

Tessa Jowell: I have not met Damian McBride in the course of my ministerial duties since his resignation on 11 April 2009.

Forfeiture Committee

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office on which dates the Forfeiture Committee has met since 1 January 2009. [287855]

Tessa Jowell: The Forfeiture Committee conducts most of its business in correspondence, but plans to meet on an annual basis to review the year's cases and discuss matters of policy. The Committee has met once in 2009, on 23 September. The subjects discussed by the Committee remain confidential.

Former Ministers: Pay

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what information her Department holds on the level of remuneration made to former Ministers given permission to take private sector jobs within two years of leaving office. [293486]

Tessa Jowell: The Ministerial Code requires that former Ministers must seek advice from the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments about any appointments or employment they wish to take up within two years of leaving office, apart from unpaid appointments in non-commercial organisations. There is no requirement for former Ministers to reveal details of their proposed remuneration packages.

Government Departments: Power of Information Taskforce

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance she has issued to Government departments on the implementation of the fee recommendations of the final report of the Power of Information Taskforce published on 2 March 2009. [292791]

Tessa Jowell: Following recommendation 10 of the Power of Information Taskforce report, the National Archives drafted new, tighter criteria for the application of fees for the provision of public sector information. This draft was published on 28 July 2009 on their blog "PSI Perspectives"

http://perspectives.opsi.gov.uk/

for public comment. The National Archives has also written to Departments drawing their attention to these draft criteria.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what mechanism is in place to track progress made by Government departments in implementing the recommendations of the final report of the Power of Information Taskforce, published on 2 March 2009. [292792]

Tessa Jowell: The Power of Information Taskforce sets out the strategic actions needed to harness the power of Web 2.0 technologies to improve the way Government communicates with citizens, with the aim of making policy making more collaborative and open.

The Director for Digital Engagement within the Cabinet Office works across Government Departments to encourage, support and challenge Departments in moving from communicating to citizens on the web, to conversing and collaborating with them through digital technology to improve the delivery of public services. As part of this role he is responsible for tracking the implementation of the Power of Information Taskforce report.

Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether her Department plans to make a submission to the Scottish Executive's National Conversation consultation on Scotland's constitutional future. [288952]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office has not submitted evidence to the Scottish Government's National Conversation.

The Commission on Scottish Devolution was established by majority vote in the Scottish Parliament and with the full support of the UK Government. UK Departments submitted evidence to the Commission during its first phase of evidence gathering.

The Commission recently published its final report, which can be found here:

http://www.commissiononscottishdevolution.org.uk/uploads/2009-06-12-csd-final-report-2009fbookmarked.pdf

A steering group has been established under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for Scotland to help the UK Government and the Scottish Parliament plan how to take forward the Calman recommendations and deliver stronger devolution within a stronger United Kingdom.

Suicide

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what suicide rates in each local authority area were in each of the last four years. [294309]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply to the hon. Member. A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Day

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Merchant Navy Association on its involvement in Armed Forces Day 2010. [294704]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: While I have not had direct discussions, I can confirm that the Merchant Navy Association are part of the Armed Forces Day 2010 Steering Group, and were in attendance at the first meeting held in Cardiff on 22 September 2009.

I can also confirm that an invitation will be extended to the Merchant Navy Association to attend and participate in Armed Forces Day events across the United Kingdom, including the National Event in Cardiff.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 November 1999, *Official Report*, column 115W, on Colombia, whether *(a)* advisory visits and *(b)* information exchanges between the UK and Colombia on operations in urban theatres, counter guerrilla strategy and psychiatry continue to take place. [293754]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 16 October 2009]*: Advisory visits and information exchanges between the UK and Colombia on operations in urban theatres, counter guerrilla strategy and psychiatry no longer take place.

Defence Equipment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps he has taken to ensure that all troops are properly equipped for each of their duties. [294504]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence is focused on ensuring our armed forces continue to be provided with the equipment they need for the conduct of operations in Afghanistan, our main effort. So far this financial year we have approved £410 million on Urgent Operational Requirements, a large proportion of which has been for Force Protection and to counter the threat from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). New equipments, including vehicles, continue to be delivered as quickly as possible.

Defence Medical Services: Manpower

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the current shortfall is of each rank of medical personnel available for active service; and if he will make a statement; [291717]

(2) what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow rates were of medical personnel in each of the three services in each of the last five years. [291719]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Manning statistics for the Defence Medical Services are updated twice a year, in April and October. The October 2009 figures are currently being collated, and verified figures should be available by the end of November. I will place these figures in the Library of the House.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department next plans to renew its procurement processes. [294503]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence keeps its procurement processes under continuous review. At the strategic level we plan to publish a Strategy for Defence Acquisition in the new year which will take forward many of the recommendations in the report by Bernard Gray which was published on 15 October 2009.

Ex-Servicemen: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department plans to take to seek to reduce the number of armed forces veterans in the criminal justice system. [294507]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's comprehensive resettlement package provides graduated re-training and advice on future careers, financial planning, access to housing and other benefits. For those considered vulnerable to social exclusion, we work closely with ex-service and wider charitable organisations, Communities and Local Government and the Devolved Administrations to reduce the potential of turning to crime by helping them finding a home, access appropriate health care and finding work.

If a veteran of the armed forces is imprisoned, the Veterans Prison In-Reach Group aims to raise awareness among the ex-service prison population of the help and support available to them and their immediate families while they serve their sentence and as they prepare for release. As well as the Ministry of Defence, the Group consists of the National Offender Management Service in the Ministry of Justice, The Royal British Legion, SSAFA Forces Help, Combat Stress, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, Action for Prisoners' Families, Her Majesty's Prison representatives, and representatives from the Devolved Administrations. Together, they work to explore new ways of better assisting veterans in prison, with the overall aim of reducing re-offending.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of reducing the number of nuclear warheads in the United Kingdom stockpile; what technical capability exists in the UK to dismantle redundant warheads; and whether the UK is able to make use of US expertise on this matter. [294253]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government are committed to retaining only the minimum credible nuclear deterrent capability. We regularly review the number of warheads in the UK stockpile in that light.

The UK technical capability to disassemble warheads is exercised and maintained at a level appropriate to enable effective warhead surveillance, essential stockpile maintenance and the timely disassembly of the stockpile should the need arise.

We do not rely on US capabilities to dismantle UK warheads. However, the UK has regular specialist technical exchanges with the US through the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement. These exchanges include warhead disassembly, to share best practice and experience.

Territorial Army: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons he decided to implement reductions in the budget available for the Territorial Army before the end of the 2009-10 financial year. [294120]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* This year is very challenging in resource terms, and success in Afghanistan must take priority. As much as the Regular forces, the Reserves must now focus available resources on supporting the ongoing campaign in Afghanistan, which means reducing activity levels elsewhere. These savings have been recommended by the Army and accepted by the Secretary of State. This is about putting today's operations first.

The measures that have been the subject of recent parliamentary debate and media reporting are specific to this financial year and reflect the fact that we are rightly focusing resources on the main effort, Afghanistan. And that means also focusing on forces currently deployed and the next roulement. But we have not taken these decisions without understanding potential risks, and we are absolutely determined that any risks to deployments to Afghanistan in 2012 will not be allowed to materialise. The Prime Minister is clear that the mission to Afghanistan will have all the resources and backing it needs to succeed.

We remain committed to ensuring that we have Reserve forces that meet the needs of Defence, today and tomorrow. Discussions about future tra[illegible] the TA will be based on the requirement to [illegible]rve its ability to support regular forces on operations, and on ensuring that TA soldiers are properly equipped and trained.

Those reserves deploying over the next year will of course continue to be paid for the training they do to prepare them for their deployment, as well as for the deployment itself. This training will vary for individuals, depending on the task they will be required to do and their current skill set. This pre-deployment training is not being cut back. It will continue to be validated at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre at Chilwell, before individuals are mobilised to join a formed unit for an extended period of training ahead of operations. It cannot be said enough; no soldier will be allowed to deploy to Afghanistan without the necessary training and equipment, whatever their trade, whether regular or reserve.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment the Attorney-General has made of whether the terms of Article 5 of the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions are binding when considering whether to consent to prosecute British companies and individuals in relation to allegations of overseas corruption. [294735]

The Solicitor-General: In considering an application for consent to the institution of criminal proceedings, the Attorney-General considers whether or not a prosecution would be in the public interest, in accordance with accepted prosecutorial principles. For the purposes of the 2005 UK phase 2 report of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, the then Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith confirmed that none of the factors listed in article 5 would be taken into account by him as public interest factors justifying a decision not to give consent. The present Attorney-General takes the same approach, and abides by article 5.

JUSTICE

Domestic Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* average and *(c)* shortest waiting period for entry into a domestic violence perpetrator programme was in each probation area in each year since such programmes were introduced. [294199]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service are currently collating the requested information and I hope to shortly be in a position to write to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* imprisoned for dealing (i) cannabis and (ii) ecstasy in each year since 1997; [294151]

(2) how many people were *(a)* found guilty and *(b)* sentenced to immediate custody for the unlawful importation of a controlled drug in each year since 1997; [294200]

(3) how many and what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners were serving sentences for drug-related offences in each year since 1997. [294203]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for 'possession with intent to supply' and 'supplying or offering to supply' cannabis and ecstasy in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in table 1.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for unlawful importation of a controlled drug in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2007, is shown in table 2.

The statistics given in tables 1 and 2 relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

The number of males and females serving sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales for drug offences from 1997 to 2009 (as at 30 June each year) is shown in table 3.

Table 1: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for 'possession with intent to supply' and 'supplying or offering to supply' cannabis and ecstasy (methylenedioxymethamphetamine—MDMA) in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007

	1997			1998			1999		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	3,275	2,499	1,129	3,223	2,648	1,284	2,917	2,246	1,112
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,788	1,414	650	1,830	1,442	656	1,580	1,168	573
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	787	544	410	410	304	217	693	451	338
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): MDMA.	442	310	228	308	246	179	408	231	173

	2000			2001			2002		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	2,169	1,802	808	1,799	1,358	618	1,787	1,388	547
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,001	842	405	794	613	265	758	592	258
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	1,081	736	520	1,352	960	690	1,064	830	578

	2000			*2001*			*2002*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): MDMA.	545	327	234	528	376	252	399	365	216

	2003			*2004*			*2005*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	2,050	1,470	475	1,525	1,247	420	1,588	993	272
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis resin.	740	522	222	617	456	156	588	393	135
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	947	746	461	726	603	394	649	557	342
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): MDMA.	306	219	127	261	172	100	245	187	91

	2006			*2007*		
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Cannabis and cannabis resin.	1,594	957	240	1,614	958	232
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): Cannabis and cannabis resin.	622	385	101	554	367	101
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: MDMA.	582	434	256	592	513	276
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, (or being concerned in): MDMA.	207	169	81	217	169	73

[1] **These data are on the principal offence basis.**

[2] **Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.**

[3] **Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.**

[4] **Following reclassification in January 2004 to a class C drug, statutory maximum penalty for possession of cannabis was downgraded from five to two years.**

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit

Table 2: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts and sentenced to immediate custody for unlawful importation of a controlled drug in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1,2,3]

Number of defendants

	1997		*1998*		*1999*		*2000*	
	Found guilty	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Unlawful importation of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	1,239	974	1,190	1,032	1,171	1,072	1,165	1,115

Number of defendants

	2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Found guilty	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*[4]	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*[4]
Unlawful importation of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	1,648	1,511	1,599	1,588	1,063	1,075	975	977

Number of defendants

	2005		2006		2007	
	Found guilty	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*	*Found guilty*	*Immediate custody*
Unlawful importation of a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971	1,026	979	835	787	783	762

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] The immediate custody column exceeds those found guilty, as it may be the case that a defendant was found guilty in one year and sentenced in the following year.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit

Table 3: The number of males and females serving sentences in all prison establishments in England and Wales for drug offences (as at 30 June each year). from 1997 to 2009

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Males													
Immediate custodial sentence	46,611	49,793	48,862	50,434	51,272	53,936	55,919	57,475	58,703	59,898	62,188	64,600	64,993
Drug offences	6,483	7,099	7,294	7,526	8,010	8,749	8,988	9,252	9,427	9,484	9,569	9,992	9,803
Drug offences as percentage of all	14	14	15	15	16	16	16	16	16	16	15	15	15
Females													
Immediate custodial sentence	2,063	2,366	2,431	2,659	2,897	3,336	3,474	3,449	3,476	3,506	3,345	3,524	3,382
Drug offences	691	794	875	947	1,137	1,317	1,342	1,235	1,234	1,163	1,044	990	893
Drug offences as percentage of all	33	34	36	36	39	39	39	36	36	33	31	28	26

Source:

Figures taken from Offender Management Caseload Statistics, table 7.2 for 2007 and 2008 up to the year 2008 and from monthly Ministry of Justice Bulletin for June 2009

Electoral Systems: Armed Forces

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of those serving in HM Armed Forces are not eligible to vote; and for what reasons; [292610]

(2) how many of those serving in HM Armed Forces in Afghanistan will not be eligible to vote in the next general election; and for what reasons; [292611]

(3) what preparations have been made to ensure that those serving in HM Armed Forces in Afghanistan are able to vote in the next UK general election. [292612]

Mr. Wills: A person is eligible to vote in a parliamentary general election if they are:

aged 18 or over on polling day (a person can register once they are 16 but cannot vote until their 18th birthday);

a British or Commonwealth citizen resident in the UK;

or a citizen of the Irish Republic resident in the UK.

At 1 September 2009 the trained strength of the UK armed forces was 174,570. As at 14 October 2009, there are 9,760 personnel in the armed forces whose records show they are not eligible to vote in a general election. There are 400 personnel in the armed forces serving in Afghanistan whose records show they are not eligible to vote in the next general election.

The Government are committed to facilitating the participation of all service personnel in the next general election. A current campaign run by the Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Defence involves every armed forces unit, raising awareness of registration for service personnel and their families. To further support this work, the Government have announced that they will extend the service declaration period from three to five years as soon as parliamentary time allows. I recently met armed forces families' representatives and I have written to invite MPs with service establishments in their constituencies to meet with me and give their views on improvements to service voting arrangements. At present, the legislation allows service voters to vote by post or by proxy: we are working with the MOD and the Electoral Commission to ensure that we have in place the most effective measures to support participation among service personnel.

Jury Service

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were summoned for jury service in each year since 1997; and how many and what proportion were disqualified, broken down by reason for disqualification; [294198]

(2) what proportion of those summoned for jury service were disqualified on each ground for disqualification in each year since 1997. [294258]

Bridget Prentice: The following table provides information from the Jury Central Summoning Board on the number of people summoned for jury service in the Crown court from 2001 to 2008. The table also provides information on the number of people who did not qualify for jury service.

As the number of disqualifications reported for a given year may include disqualifications for summons that were issued in previous years, a direct proportion of the total summons issued cannot be calculated. Information prior to 2001 is not available.

Numbers on disqualifications are classified into the three different groups. A more detailed breakdown is not available.

Annual statistics on jury summons are published by the Ministry of Justice in the annual command paper "Judicial and Court Statistics". The most recent edition, presenting statistics for 2008, was published in September 2009. Copies are available in the Library of the House and from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

Number of people summoned for jury service in the Crown court, 2001-08[1]

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Total number of summons issued	579,473	492,561	461,980	431,432	388,154	390,671	412,666	416,689
Disqualified—residency, mental disorders, criminality	118,339	105,314	98,045	89,112	77,364	85,061	94,171	96,325
Disqualified—on selection	48,271	59,892	58,830	55,410	49,765	53,031	58,900	72,854
Disqualified—failed Police National Computer check	69	160	139	148	193	185	207	103

[1] The number of disqualifications reported for a given year may include disqualifications for summons that were issued in previous years. Therefore, disqualifications as a percentage of the total number of summons issued within a year cannot be calculated.

Source:

Jury Central Summoning Board

Pleural Plaques: Compensation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Jarrow of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 741, on pleural plaques, when he plans to publish a final response to the issue of compensation for people diagnosed with pleural plaques; and what recent representations he has received from the UCATT union on its members who have been exposed to asbestos contamination at work. [294003]

Bridget Prentice: The House of Lords decision has raised extremely complex and difficult issues which have required very careful consideration within Government. It has also been important to look beyond the issue of pleural plaques itself to consider how people who have been exposed to asbestos can be supported much more widely. We are actively considering all these issues in order to be in a position to publish a final response as soon as possible.

The Justice Secretary has received several representations from UCATT on asbestos related issues.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce his decision on compensation for those with pleural plaques; and if he will make a statement. [294723]

Bridget Prentice: The House of Lords decision has raised extremely complex and difficult issues which have required very careful consideration within Government. It has also been important to look beyond the issue of pleural plaques itself to consider how people who have been exposed to asbestos can be supported much more widely. We are actively considering all these issues in order to be in a position to publish a final response as soon as possible.

Prison Sentences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the imprisonment rate was per 100,000 population in England and Wales in each year since 2001; [294197]

(2) what information his Department holds on the imprisonment rate per 100,000 population in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Northern Ireland and *(c)* the European Union area. [294259]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives information on the numbers of prisoners in all prison establishments with prison population ratios in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland 2001-08, and the average prison population ratio per 100,000 for the European Union where this published information is held within the Ministry of Justice.

The figures are derived from the tables provided in the annual publications Prison Statistics in England and Wales 2001-02, and Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2003-08. These publications can be found at the following website, and copies are held within the House of Commons Library:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Rate of prison population per 100,000 of general population 2001-08, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

		England and Wales	*Northern Ireland*	*Scotland*	*Average EU*
2001	Prison population	67,056	910	6,137	—
	Rate per 100,000 population	127	51	115	—
2002	Prison population	71,324	1,026	6,404	—
	Rate per 100,000 population	137	61	126	92
2003	Prison population	72,992	1,160	6,524	—
	Rate per 100,000 population	138	70	131	—
2004	Prison population	75,057	1,274	6,805	—
2005	Rate per 100,000 population	142	72	133	130
2006	Prison population	76,896	1,301	6,792	—
	Rate per 100,000 population	144	76	133	—
2006	Prison population	79,085	1,433	7,111	—
	Rate per 100,000 population	147	82	139	—
2007	Prison population	80,692	1,468	7,291	—
	Rate per 100,000 population	149	83	142	123
2008	Prison population	83,406	1,507	7,741	—
	Rate per 100,000 population	153	85	150	124

The averages for the European Union are not strictly comparable due to the 2004 and 2007 enlargements.

Prisoners Release

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for release from custody relating to people who pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility were approved by mental health tribunals in each of the last five years; and what the average time taken between their conviction and release of such people was in each such year. [294224]

Bridget Prentice: Neither the First tier Tribunal—Mental Health nor the Ministry of Justice Mental Health Unit collects the information requested in this format. The First-tier Tribunal—Mental Health hears applications and references for people detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 (as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007). It does not record in its database the information requested. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost by searching through all files to obtain these details. In any event, these files will only cover the last six months; anything beyond this date will have been destroyed in accordance with the Tribunals' record retention and disposal schedule.

Prisoners: Death

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people died in prison of drug-related causes in each year since 1997. [294154]

Maria Eagle: The prison system for classifying deaths does not include a specific category for drug related deaths, which is a drug related death where the underlying cause is poisoning, drug abuse or dependence and any of the substances controlled under the Misuse of Drug Act (1971) are involved.

However, information is recorded on deaths where an overdose of any drug played a part. The table shows the numbers of non-natural deaths associated with a drugs overdose.

Non-natural drug related deaths in prison custody

	Other non-natural	*Self-inflicted*	*Total*
1997	—	—	0
1998	—	—	0
1999	—	2	2
2000	—	4	4
2001	—	2	2
2002	1	3	4
2003	—	3	3
2004	—	3	3
2005	1	5	6
2006	2	1	3
2007	—	3	3
2008	—	3	3

Note:
The deaths reported in this table have been extracted, from the total deaths in prison in the period in question. While every effort is made to maintain a high level of accuracy, these figures may change as subsequent information arises, such as verdicts. They should not be read or taken as absolute figures.

The drug related self-inflicted deaths refer to cases where an overdose of any drug resulted in death. Three of the four other non-natural deaths refer to situations where any drug may have contributed to the death but not in fatal amounts. The other case relates to a fatal attempt to smuggle drugs into prison.

Prisoners: Mobile Phones

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 139-40W, on prisoners: mobile telephones, how many people have been convicted for taking an unauthorised mobile telephone or component part into a prison. [293387]

Maria Eagle: Under the Offender Management Act 2007 it is an offence with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment or an unlimited fine to bring a mobile phone or component part into a prison.

We know that from April 2008 to September 2009, there have been 142 arrests and 36 people charged with offences under the Offender Management Act 2007, which includes taking mobile phones or components into prison.

To provide the full information requested, it would be necessary to contact all prisons and young offender institutions, ask them to check their local records and to submit this information to headquarters. This could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

From April 2009, convictions under the Act have been included in the Home Office Counting Rules and will be published in next year's Annual Crime Statistics Bulletin (July 2010), providing a more accurate picture.

Prisoners: Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure was incurred on unemployment pay for prisoners in 2008-09. [294201]

Maria Eagle: I regret that the information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only by approaching 135 prisons separately which would be at disproportionate cost. Prison Service Order (PSO) 4460 (Prisoners' Pay) sets out a minimum unemployed rate of £2.50 a week. The PSO has been placed in the House Library and can also be viewed at the following web address:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/resourcecentre/psispsos/listpsos/index.asp?startrow=51

Prisoners' pay policy is set out in PSO 4460. Prisoners are eligible for unemployment pay if they are willing to work but the establishment cannot find suitable employment or the prisoner is unable to work. Those who refuse to work must not receive any pay.

Probation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* average, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* maximum offender caseload was for a probation officer in each probation area in each year since 2002. [294205]

Maria Eagle: Figures for the average and maximum caseloads per probation officer in each probation area at 31 December 2008 are set out in the following table.

No data are available for minimum caseloads; and data for average and maximum caseloads are unavailable for previous years.

Average and maximum caseloads per probation officer at 31 December 2008

Probation area	*Average caseload per probation officer on 31 December 2008*	*Maximum caseload placed on any one probation officer on 31 December 2008*
Avon and Somerset	31	72
Bedfordshire	28	48
Cambridgeshire	52	91
Cheshire	44	58
Cumbria	31	54
Derbyshire	38	49
Devon and Cornwall	31	92
Dorset	48	57
Durham	33	55
Essex	43	70
Gloucestershire	28	71
Greater Manchester	36	70
Hampshire	27	62
Hertfordshire	37	77
Humberside	33	56
Kent	30	57
Lancashire	39	79
Leicestershire	19	71
Lincolnshire	21	41
London	35	53
Merseyside	31	86
Norfolk	18	53
North Yorkshire	31	46
Northamptonshire	34	66
Northumbria	25	69
Nottinghamshire	28	66
South Yorkshire	30	58
Staffordshire	32	44
Suffolk	27	49
Surrey	31	46
Sussex	54	85
Teesside	36	64
Thames Valley	30	55
Warwickshire	26	52
West Mercia	32	84
West Midlands	35	70
West Yorkshire	29	61
Wiltshire	30	54
Dyfed Powys	23	38
Gwent	27	47
North Wales	39	66
South Wales	38	61

Remand in Custody: Young People

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made in relation to the proposal in the Youth Crime Action plan to delegate the budget for court-ordered secure remands to local authorities; and if he will make a statement; [292608]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the implications for vulnerable young people of delegating the budget for court-ordered secure remands to local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [292609]

Maria Eagle: Responses to the Youth Crime Action Plan consultation indicated that we should look broadly at how we can best incentivise local authorities to invest in alternatives to custody. The Youth Justice Board is, therefore, exploring options as to how we might do this, including the potential of devolving budgets for Court Ordered Secure Remands as set out in the Youth Crime Action Plan and the potential for devolving wider custody budgets. We recognise this is a complex issue and proper consideration needs to be given to the implications of any changes to the placement of vulnerable young people. That is why the Youth Justice Board is undertaking a full analysis before providing advice to ministers in due course.

Vetting: Scotland

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees in his Department and its agencies in England and Wales were subject to a basic disclosure check by Disclosure Scotland in each year since 2002. [294158]

Bridget Prentice: In April 2007, the requirement for Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) came into effect. In May 2007 the Ministry of Justice was established and implemented BPSS with a Disclosure Scotland security check ratio of 1:5 of all new joiners (who are not subject to a Criminal Record Bureau standard or enhanced security checks).

The central recording of the numbers of Disclosure Scotland checks commenced from 1 October 2008 and up to 19 October 2009 there have been 505 checks. For the period 2002 to September 2008 it is not possible to provide the number of Disclosure Scotland checks because the Ministry holds no central records for it and its predecessor organisations. To obtain this information will require the examination of all employee records and this will incur a disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) security vetting framework has not and does not currently use Disclosure Scotland to undertake any checks for the organisation. NOMS uses the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) to conduct their minimum baseline security checks.

TREASURY

Adjudicator's Office: Complaints

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to reach a decision by the Adjudicator's Office following the receipt of a complaint from a member of the public in respect of *(a)* a complaint relating to the Tax Credit Office and *(b)* an application for compensation from the Tax Credit Office was in each of the last five years. [294638]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The average time the Adjudicator's Office takes to reach a decision on a case, measured from acceptance of the complaint, for tax credits is:

	Weeks
2004-05	25
2005-06	18
2006-07	22
2007-08	21
2008-09	39

The Adjudicator's Office annual report sets out the reasons behind the recent increase in time taken to reach a decision, and the plans in place to address this. The annual report is available at

http://www.adjudicatorsoffice.gov.uk/pdf/report2009.pdf

The Adjudicator's Office considers compensation in each case as part of the complaint handling process; no separate application is required. As such no separate figures for compensation applications are available.

Child Tax Credit: Overseas Residence

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) in respect of how many children ordinarily resident outside the UK payments of child tax credit are being made; and what checks on the residence of children are made before payment of such tax credits; [293174]

(2) what his policy is on obtaining evidence of a child's country of residence in relation to payment of child benefit; and what information he has on the number of children receiving child benefit who are not ordinarily resident in the UK. [293170]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* Information about the payment of child tax credit to families with children resident outside the UK is only available at disproportionate cost. Data is available on child benefit awards to EEA nationals in respect of children resident in another member state and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) on 13 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 787W.

Child benefit and child tax credit is intended to help families in the UK. Generally, therefore, it is not payable in respect of children resident outside the UK. However, under EC coordinating regulations on social security for migrant workers and their families, which the UK has administered since it joined the European Economic Community in 1973, a European Economic Area (EEA) national working in one member state can claim family benefits (child tax credit together with child benefit) in that member state in respect of members of their family resident in other member states.

All claims for family benefits are subject to a wide range of checks throughout the life of each claim. Where claims for family benefits are made under the EC Regulations on behalf of children living in another member state, HMRC carry out further checks to verify the information provided by the customer to prevent erroneous or fraudulent claims. These checks include requiring the relevant authorities in the member state where the worker's family resides to confirm the composition of the family and to find out whether there are any family benefits in payment in that other member state.

Child Trust Fund: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in Leeds West constituency had received child trust fund payments on the latest date for which figures are available. [294018]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The most recent constituency level statistics on child trust fund accounts can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/cons-stats-oct08.pdf

and show that 4,534 children born before 6 April 2007 in the Leeds West constituency have a child trust fund account.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293243]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It would not be possible to identify from records held centrally by HM Treasury or its agencies which businesses were classified as small or medium-sized enterprises at the time when contracts were awarded to them without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294697]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is not available, as the Treasury's accounting system does not record accommodation costs separately from subsistence spending.

Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Northern Rock

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the independent valuation of Northern Rock will be completed. [294006]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for South Derbyshire on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 548W.

Royal Mint

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has been made on the disposal of the Royal Mint; and if he will make a statement. [291894]

Ian Pearson: Royal Mint is owned 100 per cent. by Government. It is currently vesting the business of the Royal Mint Trading Fund into a company structure, with the intention of completing the process by the end of this year. Vesting will have no impact on the ownership of the Royal Mint.

Taxation: Property

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many penalties have been imposed by HM Revenue and Customs on estates as a consequence of a difference between the official valuation of a property and the final sale price in the last 12 months; how many such penalties have been challenged; how many such challenges have been upheld; and how much revenue accrued to the Exchequer from the imposition of such penalties. [294125]

Mr. Timms: The precise information requested is available only at disproportionate cost as HM Revenue and Customs' systems do not allow for identification of penalties imposed specifically due to a difference in the initial valuation of a property and the final sale of price of that property

Inheritance tax (IHT) rules require all assets—including property—in an estate to be valued for IHT purposes at the point immediately before the deceased's death. Where a property is subsequently sold within four years of this for less than the value on which IHT was paid 'loss on sale' relief may be claimed.

In the last 12 months penalties have been charged in 17 cases as a result of undervaluation of some part of the estate, resulting in approximately £120,000 of additional revenue accruing to the Exchequer

The numbers of penalties challenged and those subsequently upheld are not available.

Valuation Office: Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent on its automated valuation model for *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates. [294653]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency do not record these costs separately for council tax and business rates.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne) of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2134W, on the Valuation Office: data protection, whether the Information Commissioner's Personal Data Flowchart guidance on domestic property data was taken into account when the Valuation Office Agency signed its contract with Rightmove.co.uk to obtain property data. [294366]

Ian Pearson: The contract is between HMRC and Rightmove.co.uk and predates the Personal Data Flowchart Guidance.

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much and what percentage of tax credits overpaid as a result of fraud have been recovered in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [293573]

(2) how much of the sum overpaid in tax credits as a result of fraud has been classified as *(a)* recoverable and *(b)* unrecoverable in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [293574]

Mr. Timms: The precise information requested is not available. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not keep separate records on the level of recoverable debt arising from compliance checks.

Information on tax credits debt and HMRC's estimates of tax credits error and fraud are provided in Trust Statement section of HMRC's departmental accounts.

HMRC's departmental accounts for the last five years are available at:

2008-09

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accs-0809.pdf

2007-08

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

2006-07

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-06-07-acc.pdf

2005-06

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageVAT_ShowContent&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_025710

2004-05

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/ir-report2005.pdf

HEALTH

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of dentists graduating from medical schools in England were not working in the NHS *(a)* three and *(b)* five years after qualification in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [294355]

Ann Keen: We do not hold information about the number of dentists working privately, but almost all new dental graduates undertake one year's vocational training in a dental practice with a major national health service commitment. We are also aware that it is some years before a newly qualified dentist can build up a significant private practice and that most dentists work in mixed practice providing both NHS and private dentistry. There is no evidence of a shortage of dentists willing to take NHS contracts when they are offered.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of tooth *(a)* extractions and *(b)* fillings carried out under the NHS in each year since 1997. [294575]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The estimated full year number of clinical dental items delivered, by patient type during 2003-04 and 2008-09, is available in Tables 1 and 2 for England and Tables 7 and 8 for Wales in the "Provisional Clinical Dental Report, England and Wales: Quarter 3, 31 December 2008—Experimental Statistics" report.

This publication carries the label "Experimental statistics". Experimental statistics are new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage.

Note that as the nature of the dental contract was different in 2003-04 to 2008-09, covering a differing range of services, with different data collection practices and funding regimes in place, there are a number of reasons why figures are not fully comparable across the two years. The figures published should be treated with the caution appropriate to all experimental data.

This report, published on 19 August 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/clinicaldental0809q3

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for NHS dental services has been in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [294576]

Ann Keen: Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former General Dental Service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much national health service work they chose to undertake.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care published the following report on 26 March 2008: "NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 199[illegible]8—2005-06". This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalexpend1997to2006

The report includes information on primary dental care expenditure by parliamentary constituency, primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area for 1997-98 to 2005-06 in Tables A3 and B3 of Annex 3. Table A3 relates to 'gross' expenditure and table B3 relates to 'net' expenditure. 'Gross' expenditure refers to the full cost of the payments recorded; 'net' expenditure reflects the cost of these payments to the NHS after the deduction of income from NHS dental charges paid by patients.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. Further notes to aid interpretation of the information are shown in the 'Contents and Notes' page of Annex 3. The data will not be directly comparable with data based on the new dental service framework introduced from 1 April 2006.

The former GDS arrangements were replaced with effect from 1 April 2006, when PCTs were given responsibility for planning and commissioning primary dental services and provided with local, devolved, dental budgets. The primary dental service funding allocations made to the North Yorkshire and York PCT, the aggregate allocations to all PCTs within the Yorkshire and the Humber SHA, and the aggregate allocations to the NHS in England, for each of the four years since PCTs assumed full responsibility for primary dental care services, are in the following table. These are net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which are retained locally by PCTs to supplement the resources available for dentistry. PCTs may also dedicate some of their other NHS resources to dentistry if they consider this an appropriate local priority. Allocations are not apportioned by individual constituencies or towns; PCTs determine the distribution of resources within their area on the basis of local needs and priorities. Actual expenditure levels are determined by the pattern and type of services commissioned by each PCT and are recorded in the notes to PCT accounts.

Primary dental service net funding allocations

£000

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
North Yorkshire and York PCT	25,195	26,894	30,088	31,392
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	186,918	198,973	222,180	237,653
England	1,764,700	1,872,442	2,081,000	2,257,000

Notes:

1. The PCT allocation figure for 2006-07 is the aggregate of the allocations made initially to the Craven, Harrogate and Rural District, Hambleton and Richmondshire, Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale, and Selby and York PCTs before they merged to form the North Yorkshire and York PCT with effect from 1 October 2006.

2. PCTs are awarded separate funding allocations to meet the cost of any dental vocational trainees who may be placed with dental practices in their area. The funding totals for the Yorkshire and Humber SHA, and England, include funding for vocational trainees.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many units of dental activity in *(a)* band 1, *(b)* band 2 and *(c)* band 3 have been carried out by dentists in (i) Vale of York constituency, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) England in each year since 2006. [294577]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The number of units of dental activity performed in England by treatment band in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is available in Table B3 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2008-09" report. Information is provided by primary care trust and strategic health authority but is not available at constituency level. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

This report, published on 19 August 2009, has already been placed in the Library and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809

Dental Services: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of schoolchildren who received *(a)* screenings and *(b)* advice from dentists providing NHS services in each year since 1997. [294574]

Ann Keen: There is no information held centrally on which we could base an estimate of the number of children who still receive dental screening examinations in school. The National Screening Committee advised that that there is no evidence to support universal screening for dental disease among children aged six to nine years. In the light of this expert advice, we have concentrated on targeted initiatives like the Brushing for Life scheme which provides for families with young children to receive toothpaste and brushes at child health clinics or Sure Start centres, together with advice on how the children can be seen by a dentist.

Data published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care showed that 7,643,000 children and young people aged under 18 were seen by a primary care national health service dentist in the 24-month period ending June 2009. This is equivalent to 69.5 per cent. of the population aged under 18.

Dental Services: Standards

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been recovered by the NHS as a consequence of targets for level of units of dental activity not being met in each year since 2006. [294572]

Ann Keen: Providers of national health service dental services have contracts with primary care trusts (PCTs) that set out the agreed annual contract sum and the corresponding level of services to be provided over the course of the year. These annual service levels are expressed mainly in terms of 'units of dental activity', which measure courses of treatment according to their relative complexity. Dental providers who under-deliver by up to 4 per cent. may carry this forward and make up the activity in the following year. Where a provider has delivered less than 96 per cent. of the agreed annual service level, it is at the PCTs discretion whether the undelivered activity is carried forward to the following year or an appropriate proportion of the annual contract sum is refunded to the PCT. This is a matter for PCTs to decide locally in the light of individual circumstances, and their decisions are not collected or held centrally.

Dental Services: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 18 of his Department's evidence to the 2010 review of doctors' and dentists' remuneration, how many hours of NHS work dentists conducted in England in total in *(a)* each calendar year since 1997 for which figures are available and *(b)* each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [294356]

Ann Keen: Information for the annual hours of national health service dental work is not available.

Information on the normal weekly hours of dentists in the period since 1997 is set out in Table 19 of the NHS Information Centre (IC) for health and social care publication entitled "Dental Working Hours England and Wales 2006-07 and 2007-08". The publication has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalworkinghours0708

The IC's report records that a study in 2000 found that dentists worked an average of 39.4 hours; the IC's Dental Working Hours Analysis recorded averages of 36.6 hours in 2006-07 and 37.0 hours in 2007-08. There were differences in the coverage of the surveys.

The 2000 survey does not give a complete split of weekly hours into NHS and private dental work and so a weekly NHS hours estimate is not available for the year 2000.

For 2006-07 and 2007-08 dentists provided estimates of the percentage of time spent on NHS work: 71.4 per cent. in 2006-07 and 70.8 per cent. in 2007-08 so that weekly NHS hours were 26.1 hours and 26.2 hours respectively.

The IC in its publication "NHS Dental Statistics for England", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, report that 20,815 dentists performed some NHS dental activity in 2006-07 in England and

21,343 dentists some dental activity in 2007-08. However, some of these dentists did not work for the whole year. So these figures cannot be used to produce estimates of total annual hours worked.

In researching the information requested we have, however, noticed a small error in paragraph 18 of the Department's evidence to the Doctors' and Dentists' Review Body (DDRB) for the 2010 review. As noted, the survey which collected data for 2006-07 and 2007-08 (a single questionnaire for the two years) in fact showed a small increase in the average hours worked for the NHS by dentists doing some NHS work from 26.1 hours in 2006-07 to 26.2 hours in 2007-08. We shall be writing to the DDRB to correct this error.

Mental Health Services: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the amount spent on transferring patients with mental health problems from Leeds to treatment centres outside the Leeds area during the period April 2007 to March 2009. [294730]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. This information may be obtainable direct from the Leeds Primary Care Trust.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve standards of mental health care in Leeds. [294731]

Phil Hope: The responsibility for providing healthcare, including specialist mental health care services, rests with primary care trusts (PCTs). The Department provides funding for PCTs to commission, or provide healthcare for their local populations from national health service or independent sector providers. We are not prescriptive about how individual PCTs spend their budgets and each PCT decides its own spending levels for specific healthcare treatments and services.

Since 2001-02, total planned investment in adult mental health services has increased by 50 per cent. (£2.0 billion), putting in place the extra services and staff needed to transform mental health services. Nine consecutive years of increased spending by the NHS on mental health services has provided more staff, and increasing numbers of people with a severe mental illness are receiving treatment from community teams outside of hospital settings.

Our significant investment in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT), will see annual funding rising to £173 million, 3,600 extra therapists trained and 900,000 more people treated by 2011. This investment in IAPT will help to add to the existing provision of psychological therapies, increase capacity, reduce waiting times and drive up quality standards.

Social Services: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to reform the care and support system for disabled people of working age; and if he will make a statement. [294740]

Phil Hope: The Care and Support Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together", published on 14 July 2009, set out the Government's vision for a National Care Service that is universal, fair, affordable, clear and helps people to live their lives the way they want to. The Green Paper applies to all adults in England.

It is vital that everybody gets involved in the Big Care Debate to have their say on the future direction of the new care and support system. The consultation closes on 13 November 2009.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Copenhagen Summit

10. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the international development aspects of the forthcoming Copenhagen climate change summit. [294279]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The General Affairs and External Relations Council has two sessions each year on development issues. Climate change was a focus of the May meeting and we will again be looking at climate change at the November meeting, as well as ensuring that we are represented at these meetings. I take numerous opportunities to discuss the road to Copenhagen with my EU counterparts.

Maternal and Child Mortality

11. **Mr. Sarwar:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department gives in *(a)* drafting and *(b)* implementing national plans for the reduction of maternal, newborn and child mortality in countries in receipt of aid from his Department. [294280]

Mr. Michael Foster: Maternal and child health is a priority for the Department for International Development (DFID). In Africa and Asia we work closely with partner governments in developing national health plans to tackle maternal and child health and deliver better services for the poorest.

At the UN General Assembly, we pledged £100 million to assist Nepal, Malawi, Ghana, Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone to expand access to free health care. This will save millions of women and children's lives.

Food Security: Africa

12. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure security in the supply of food for people in developing countries in Africa. [294281]

Mr. Thomas: The UK supports agriculture, rural development and food security programmes in 18 countries across Africa, contributing £73 million last year including £20 million on food security in Ethiopia. We are providing additional assistance this year for the Horn of Africa. We provide support through multilateral institutions. We support Africa's vision for a doubling of agricultural production over the next 20 years to secure food supplies over the longer term.

Millennium Development Goals

13. **Mr. Tom Clarke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the Government's contribution to the achievement of the millennium development goals. [294282]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are committed to delivery of the millennium development goals through its public service agreement on international poverty reduction. Our July White Paper set out how we will respond to new challenges building a platform for further action on poverty beyond 2015. The latest assessment of the Government's contribution to the achievement of the millennium development goals is contained in DFID's 2009 annual report, also published in July and available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Aid Target

14. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards the achievement of the UK's target of spending 0.7 per cent. of gross domestic product on overseas aid. [294283]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government remain committed to delivering 0.7 per cent. of GNI as official development assistance by 2013. We have recently announced plans to introduce legislation to ensure the commitment is met. In 2008 UK official development assistance stood at 0.43 per cent. of GNI in line with the trajectory set out in the 2007 comprehensive spending review and will reach at least 0.56 per cent. by 2010-11.

Afghanistan: Infant Mortality

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to the Government of Afghanistan to help in reducing levels of infant mortality. [293682]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Afghan Government in reducing levels of infant mortality through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Fund (ARTF). DFID has provided £360 million to the ARTF since 2002, and is planning a further £165 million to 2013. This will cover around 14 per cent. of the total operating costs of the Afghan health sector.

In Helmand, the UK is supporting the Afghan Government's efforts to improve health care through the cross-departmental conflict fund and the provincial reconstruction team.

Government of Afghanistan programmes in the health sector have achieved the following results:

Full immunisation of children has risen from 15 per cent. in 2003 to 27 per cent. in 2006

The number of Afghan midwives has increased from 467 in 2002 to 2,167 in 2008;

82 per cent. of the population now live in a district with access to basic healthcare across the country, compared with 9 per cent. in 2003. As a result, an estimated 40,000 more Afghan children will see their fifth birthdays this year compared to 2002.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293335]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The requested information could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Eritrea

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's policy is on the provisions of the development agreement reached between the European Commission and Eritrea in September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [293770]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government welcome the new European Commission Country Strategy for Eritrea that it signed with the Government of Eritrea in September 2009. This will provide €122 million between 2009 and 2013 to help the Eritrean people improve governance and reduce poverty and food insecurity. Over half of the population live below the national poverty line.

The development co-operation is part of the broader partnership between the European Union and Eritrea based on the Cotonou Agreement of June 2000. As part of Article 8 of this agreement, there will be political dialogue between the parties on political and human rights issues.

Eritrea: International Broadcasting

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2009, *Official Report,* column 496, on Eritrea: international broadcasting, what requests for funding to support Radio Erena his Department has received in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [29376[illegible]]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not received any requests for funding to support Radio Erena in the last three years.

Eritrea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the freedom of access for non-government organisations and aid agencies to assist people in Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [293769]

Mr. Thomas: Freedom for non-government organisations and aid agencies to operate within Eritrea is limited due to constraints put in place by the Government of Eritrea. The Government of Eritrea does not consider these organisations to have a significant role to play in either the development of the country or in addressing relief needs. After agreeing a limited travel itinerary with the

Eritrean authorities, Department for International Development (DFID) officials were able to visit partner agencies in Eritrea in August of this year.

Georgia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to assist those displaced as a result of the conflict in Georgia in August 2008. [293123]

Mr. Michael Foster: In response to the conflict in August 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) initially committed £2 million to humanitarian agencies providing assistance to affected civilians in Georgia and the Russian Federation (RF). Of this £1 million was allocated to the International Committee of the Red Cross for their operations in Georgia and North Ossetia in the RF. £550,000 was allocated to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), £250,000 was given to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and £200,000 to the Hazardous Areas Life-Support Organisation (HALO).

In December 2008, DFID provided a further £2 million humanitarian aid to be channelled through UNHCR. This provided Internally Displaced People (both pre and post 2008 conflict) with "winterised" shelter and continued access to basic provisions.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether he has received a request to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry; [293559]

(2) how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have received requests to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [293564]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer that will be given by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister today.

Literacy: Developing Countries

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps he has taken to improve levels of literacy in the world's 10 poorest countries. [294293]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed in partnership with other donors, to the realisation of all six goals of the Education for All (EFA) agenda.

Through our long-term commitment to provide £8.5 billion in support of education overseas to 2015, we are supporting poor countries to invest in quality basic education, including lower secondary, to ensure that children attain the fundamental skills they need to participate in social and economic life.

DFID has recently directly supported adult literacy programmes in Uganda, Kenya, India and Yemen, as well as through humanitarian aid programmes. In India, DFID supports the accelerated Tara Akshar Reading programme, a fast track programme aiming to teach people to read in 50-hours over a period of 30-days. In Yemen, DFID and participating donors are financing a substantial basic education programme which includes support to both primary and adult basic education.

Party Conferences

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any of his Department's non-departmental public bodies sent representatives to attend one or more political party conferences in 2009. [293479]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), did not send representatives to any of the political party conferences.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Communications Annual Report 2008-09

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's Communications Annual Report 2008-09, if he will place in the Library a copy of the evaluation report for *(a)* the Home buying and Home selling communications campaign, *(b)* the eco-towns campaign and *(c)* the promoting take-up of online council services on waste and recycling campaign. [292888]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

(a) The purpose of the Home buying and selling campaign was to provide information to buyers, sellers and estate agents about changes in the law, and directed people online for more detail. It was evaluated through the number of visits to the campaign website for which I refer the hon. Member to the information on the Department's website published at the time of the Department's 2008-09 Annual Report:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1298507.pdf

(b) The purpose of the eco-towns campaign was to promote the consultation process. It was evaluated through the number of visits to the consultation micro-site at 34,189 visitors and the number of consultation responses at 7,500 at the end of the consultation period.

(c) The evaluation report on the online council waste and recycling campaign will be placed in the Library.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Community Infrastructure Levy will be applied to new *(a)* affordable housing and *(b)* social housing developments. [294086]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government are currently seeking views on proposals as to whether and how the Community Infrastructure Levy should apply to affordable or social housing developments in its consultation regarding the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy which was launched on 30 July 2009 and will conclude on 23 October 2009. No final decisions have yet been made.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the Valuation Office Agency's full-time equivalent staff work on valuations for council tax purposes. [294099]

Barbara Follett: In the last full year, 2008-09, the Valuation Office Agency used 714 full-time equivalent staff for council tax purposes.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in his Department has responsibility for architectural policy. [292691]

Mr. Ian Austin: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has responsibility for building design; and that Department is responsible for architectural design policy and sponsors the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

However, Communities and Local Government also recognises the value of architecture, and the importance that good design in architecture and the built environment plays in creating sustainable communities. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has appointed me to take forward this work for this Department. I also have the responsibility for the Department's work with CABE, which we jointly sponsor with DCMS to ensure that the architectural design agenda is embedded across Government.

In addition, the Secretary of State for Communities is accountable to Parliament for the Architects' Registration Board (ARB). This is the UK's Statutory Regulator for Architects, and is responsible for the registration of architects and the prescription of architectural courses as described in the Architects Act 1997.

Eco-Towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its agencies have spent on each budgetary heading related to communications, marketing, public relations, design and media on eco-towns. [292557]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the information published on the Department's website alongside its 2009 annual report:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1298507.pdf

Energy Performance Certificates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations his Department has received on Energy Performance Certificates taking into account energy efficiency derived from air source heat pumps; and if he will review the methodology used to rate air source heat pumps for home information pack purposes. [294429]

John Healey: The Department has received a number of representations concerning the energy efficiency and environmental performance ratings achieved by dwellings that use air source heat pumps (ASHPs) as a source of heating on Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). Reduced Data Standard Assessment Procedure (RDSAP), the methodology used to generate EPCs for existing dwellings, takes into account a wide range of construction materials and building features, including ASHPs. RDSAP is derived from Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) both of which are kept under constant review and upgraded on a regular basis to take account of new building technologies.

English Partnerships: Redundancy Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much English Partnerships spent on redundancy payments when it was dissolved; and how many people received such payments; [292619]

(2) how many people made redundant by English Partnerships have subsequently been hired as employees, contractors or consultants by the Homes and Communities Agency. [292643]

Mr. Ian Austin: When English Partnerships dissolved it spent £368,000 on redundancy payments in relation to five staff. Information on redundancy payments on the three most senior members of staff, including its Chief Executive, was reported on in its final set of accounts, for 2008-09, which was published on its website at:

http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/corporateinformation.htm

Copies were also lodged in the Vote Office.

The Homes and Communities Agency has no record centrally that any of these former staff have subsequently been hired by the Homes and Communities Agency as employees, contractors or consultants.

Fire Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 315W, on the New Dimension Programme, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report by NERA UK Ltd on the New Dimension Programme. [289629]

Mr. Malik: The report will be placed in the Library of the House shortly.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the FireGuard project. [292893]

Mr. Malik: The Fireguard Project Board, chaired by the Chief Fire Officers Association, assessed the technical and financial aspects of the project, including affordability. Firebuy, the national procurement body for the English Fire and Rescue Service, undertook the procurement process for the project at the request of 33 fire and rescue authorities, led by the Chief Fire Officers Association. This Department did not make any separate assessment of the project.

Fire Services: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sickness days were taken as a result of an assault on a Fire Service staff member in each fire and rescue authority in the most recent year for which figures are available; how many days were lost per firefighter on average due to assault in that year; and what the estimated cost of such losses is to each fire authority was in 2008-09. [289294]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contingency arrangements have been made for the use of fire appliances in the event of a strike by firefighters; which appliances would be used; and if he will make a statement. [294132]

Mr. Malik: The National Framework for the Fire and Rescue Service states that fire and rescue authorities must have a plan to provide such level of cover as it regards appropriate during emergencies, including industrial action, and ensure the availability of all necessary vehicles and equipment. Unless the fire and rescue authority has alternative arrangements, we would expect such vehicles to be sourced from their existing fleets.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters were employed at fire stations in *(a)* each local authority area in the East of England and *(b)* England in each of the last 10 years. [289395]

Mr. Malik: The numbers of firefighters based at fire stations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The total numbers of whole-time and retained firefighters for each fire authority is held centrally and are shown in the following tables for *(a)* fire authorities in the east of England and *(b)* England.

Number of whole-time firefighters, 1999 to 2008

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bedfordshire and Luton	315	305	326	334	319	330	323	317	321	330
Cambridgeshire	263	263	276	274	273	285	273	258	277	278
Essex	914	923	937	948	937	920	936	981	945	943
Hertfordshire	557	581	565	570	564	574	564	569	560	575
Norfolk	282	298	310	308	288	295	281	303	306	302
Suffolk	256	249	248	253	250	244	257	272	257	259
East of England	2,587	2,619	2,662	2,687	2,631	2,648	2,634	2,700	2,666	2,687
England	31,918	31,615	31,597	31,592	31,631	31,856	31,053	30,744	30,804	30,824

Sources:
(i) HM Chief Inspector for Fire's Annual Report and
(ii) Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletin

Number of retained duty system firefighters, 1999 to 2008

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bedfordshire and Luton	131	126	138	151	139	106	150	154	157	170
Cambridgeshire	365	364	371	344	327	350	369	373	365	354
Essex	457	460	464	477	472	475	488	534	548	543
Hertfordshire	267	266	265	261	208	268	257	261	228	256
Norfolk	448	443	443	405	426	435	501	514	527	534
Suffolk	400	396	404	401	415	399	425	452	487	493
East of England	2,068	2,055	2,085	2,039	1,987	2,033	2,190	2,288	2,312	2,350
England	13,022	13,021	13,097	13,002	13,048	13,015	13,543	13,927	14,212	14,166

Sources:
(i) HM Chief Inspector for Fire's Annual Report and
(ii) Fire and Rescue Service Operational Statistics Bulletin

Fire Services: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has given to fire and rescue authorities on their Service Improvement Plans. [292807]

Mr. Malik: Fire and Rescue Authorities produce Service Improvement Plans as part of the Integrated Risk Management Planning process.

FRAs are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances—evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resource accordingly.

A range of guidance on the drawing up of IRMPs has been issued to FRAs and is available on the Communities and Local Government website.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to fire and rescue authorities in the last 24 months on the European Working Time Directive and retained firefighters. [292626]

Mr. Malik: The Department has not issued any guidance to fire and rescue services on the EU Working Time Directive and retained duty system firefighters in the last 24 months. "Integrated Risk Management Planning Guidance Note 6", which gives general guidance on how the Working Time Regulations might affect the fire and rescue service and was issued in 2004, remains current.

Homelessness

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have *(a)* applied to their local authority for housing and *(b)* been designated as intentionally homeless following a repossession in each of the last three years. [294071]

Mr. Ian Austin: CLG does not hold information on the number of households who, following repossession, apply to their local authority for housing and are found intentionally homeless.

CLG issued supplementary guidance to local housing authorities in August on how they should exercise their homelessness functions, and apply the various statutory criteria, when considering whether applicants who are homeless having lost their home because of difficulties in meeting mortgage commitments are intentionally or unintentionally homeless. This guidance reminded authorities about the correct questions they must ask when deciding whether a former homeowner has become homeless intentionally.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a full impact assessment has been produced relating to the costs of the provisions in the Lifetime Homes Standard on building a house. [293360]

Mr. Ian Austin: In June 2007 the Department published a consultation on "Making a Rating Mandatory" within the Code for Sustainable Homes. This included an impact assessment which identified costs and benefits of building to the Lifetime Homes Standards. The document can be downloaded at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/doc/Thefutureofthecode.doc

We will be consulting on proposed changes to the Code for Sustainable Homes in due course and this will include our proposal to make Lifetime Homes Standards mandatory at Code Level 4. The consultation will be supported by a full impact assessment.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department carried out an impact assessment of *(a)* the revision of Planning Policy Guidance 3 and *(b)* its policies on (i) density and (ii) brownfield classification in 2000. [294138]

Mr. Ian Austin: An Impact assessment was undertaken for PPG3 but the impact assessment undertaken for PPS3 has superseded the assessment for PPG3. This assessment is available on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps3ria

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the errors were in the House Building Statistical Release published on 20 August 2009 which caused it to be withdrawn. [294883]

Mr. Ian Austin: The errors in the House Building Statistical Release published on 20 August 2009 affected the numbers of starts and completions reported for the June quarter 2009.

In line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics, we will be publishing a revised release as soon as possible. Once a release date for the corrected figures is known this will be announced on the UK National Statistics publication hub and the Communities and Local Government departmental release calendar.

Housing: Energy

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* research his Department has undertaken on and *(b)* resources his Department has committed to assist the preparedness of the house construction industry to meet new environmental energy-saving targets for new homes in the last 12-months. [292783]

Mr. Ian Austin: Communities and Local Government has commissioned and contributed to a range of research projects on the energy performance of new homes in the last 12-months. These projects were carried out to help inform the recent consultation to revise Part L (Conservation of fuel and power) of the Building Regulations and proposals to both strengthen performance standards and improve compliance with these standards.

Officials have liaised with construction industry including housebuilders in the drawing up of these proposals, which includes a training and dissemination strategy.

My Department has also been working with industry on our policy that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016. Delivery of the policy is supported by the Zero Carbon Hub partnership who are looking at areas where additional skills and training are needed. All this work has been resourced as part of normal business planning.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the construction industry on its preparedness for new environmental and energy-saving targets. [292784]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has been engaging with representatives of the construction industry on meeting the requirements of zero carbon policies for new buildings and on preparing for the introduction of new water and energy efficiency standards in Building Regulations planned for 2010.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* research his Department has undertaken on and *(b)* resources his Department has committed in the last 12 months to the various trades in the construction industry on ensuring existing homes meet the new environmental and energy-saving standards. [292785]

Mr. Ian Austin: Building work on existing homes was included in proposals to strengthen energy efficiency standards as part of the recent consultation to revise part L (conservation of fuel and power) of the Building Regulations.

Housing: Regeneration

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder; what the total expenditure has been; how many properties have been demolished in each; and how many new *(a)* affordable and *(b)* market price properties have been built in each. [293169]

Mr. Ian Austin: Total allocations from 2002-03 to 2009-10 for the nine original HMR pathfinders are given in the table:

HMR pathfinder	*2002-03 to 2009-10 (£ million)*[1]
Birmingham Sandwell	139
East Lancashire	270
Hull and East Riding	113
Manchester Salford	322
Merseyside	295
Newcastle Gateshead	200
North Staffordshire	178
Oldham Rochdale	184
South Yorkshire	245

[1] Includes preparation and early actions.

From 2006-07, approximately £75 million has also been allocated to the three areas of wider lower demand; Tees Valley, West Yorkshire and West Cumbria making a total of more than £2 billion allocated to the HMR programme since 2002-03.

Total new build, refurbishment and demolition figures for HMR pathfinder areas, from the beginning of the programme to March 2009, are given in the table. Data differentiating affordable and private new build housing are not held in a readily available format and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HMR pathfinder	*New build*[1]	*Refurbishments*[1]	*Demolitions*[1]
Birmingham Sandwell	224	8,700	1,300
East Lancashire	16	4,300	2,000
Hull and East Riding	167	400	600
Manchester Salford	935	12,300	2,800
Merseyside	1,059	9,900	1,600
Newcastle Gateshead	274	5,100	2,400
North Staffordshire	198	6,200	1,400
Oldham Rochdale	323	3,200	800
South Yorkshire	538	9,000	3,100

[1] HMR funded: as set out in the funding agreements between HMR pathfinders and CLG/HCA.

Housing: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligatory standards his Department imposes on developers of *(a)* social and *(b)* private sector housing regarding dwelling space standards. [294460]

Mr. Ian Austin: With regard to social housing, I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 127W and the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 506W.

With regard to private sector housing, the Government's planning policy for housing (PPS3) is clear on the need to achieve high quality new housing, which includes consideration of the amount and use of space within and around the home.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Valuation Office Agency's policy is on providing information to householders on the methodology by which their property was valued when such requests are made under Section 18(2)(h) of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005. [294600]

Barbara Follett: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) may consider the value of a householder's property for various different purposes including council tax, right to buy (RTB), compulsory purchase and national taxes such as inheritance tax and capital gains tax. For council tax detailed information on the methodology adopted is available on the VOA's website at:

www.voa.gov.uk

For other purposes if the householder is the person to whom the valuation relates (for instance is buying their property under RTB or is the subject of a taxation assessment) the VOA will either as a matter of normal business or upon request, provide appropriate details of the methodology used in valuing the property.

Legal Opinion

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 488-9W, on legal opinion, what the nature of the legal opinion and the associated issue of law was that was obtained in relation to the *(a)* FiReControl Project, *(b)* Firelink Project, *(c)* Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant Project and *(d)* Home Information Pack Register Project. [292855]

Barbara Follett: Legal advice was provided on a regular and ongoing basis. The majority will be protected by Legal Professional Privilege or commercial confidentiality or both. Providing detailed information about advice obtained would be at disproportionate cost.

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1547W, on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, what factors arising from his Department's consultation exercise are contributing to the delay in the implementation of Part 6 of the Act. [290313]

Barbara Follett: We will publish shortly our response to the consultation paper 'The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws', having considered in particular the issues of ensuring a robust process of consultation between a council and the community before the making of any byelaws and their enforcement.

Local Government: Conditions of Employment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an assessment has been made of the effect on local authorities of the ruling of the European Court of Justice on allowing workers to claim sick leave while away on holiday leave; and if he will make a statement. [292550]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

We are of course aware of the recent judgment from the ECJ on Francisco Vicente Pereda *v.* Madrid Movilidad SA. We are carefully considering the potential implications not only for the public sector but all employers and will make our conclusions known in due course.

Local Government: Co-operation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has assessed the consequences of the Court of Appeal judgment in the case of Brent borough council v Risk Management Partners Limited on *(a)* two-tier joint working in local authorities and *(b)* his Department's Total Place pilots. [293532]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Court of Appeal judgment in the case of Brent borough council *v.* Risk Management Partners Ltd. confirmed that local authorities are entitled to co-operate with each other in the performance of their functions. We have provided local authorities with a power to establish and participate together in mutual insurance corporate bodies through the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. We have not specifically assessed the consequences of the judgment on two-tier joint working in local authorities or the Department's total place pilots.

Local Government: Research

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 14 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, which local government research projects have been *(a)* delayed and *(b)* cancelled. [294665]

Barbara Follett: A research project scheduled for 2008-09 on 'The New Local Area Performance Framework estimation of impact' was commissioned later than expected in September 2009. A project to study 'Joint delivery of Public Services in an Area' was no longer required due to the emergence of initiatives such as the total place pilots.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in Leeds West constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted assistance under the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme in each quarter since the scheme's inception; and if he will make a statement. [293942]

John Healey: Homeowners Mortgage Support is part of the range of assistance available at every stage to households struggling with their mortgage. The scheme encourages lenders to allow households who have suffered a temporary income shock to defer some of their interest payment, if this is necessary to make their monthly payment affordable. The Department plans to publish information in December on the number of households who have been helped through Homeowners Mortgage Support. Statistics from the Financial Services Authority show that more than 135,000 borrowers were benefiting from forbearance offered by their lender at the end of June 2009, an increase of 17 per cent. on the previous quarter.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to increase public awareness in Leeds West constituency of measures to assist homeowners with mortgage repayments; and if he will make a statement. [293944]

John Healey: CLG have launched a new national campaign to help struggling homeowners across the country take control of their finances and make the most of the support available for them to avoid repossessions and stay in their homes.

National press and online advertisements are highlighting the measures the Government have put in place at every stage for homeowners to avoid repossession. The advertisements point people to an advice line and a new website illustrating the practical steps they can take to resolve their mortgage repayment worries, as well as contacts for the wide range of support available.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which local authorities discretionary schemes for Houses of Multiple Occupation licensing are in the process of being approved. [290418]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department is currently considering applications for discretionary additional HMO licensing schemes from Oxford city council, Breckland council and the London boroughs of Hillingdon, Ealing and Harrow.

The Department has granted approval to Peterborough city council and the London borough of Hounslow to operate discretionary additional HMO licensing schemes.

National Policy Statements

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the publication of the drafts of each of the National Policy Statements on planning. [293363]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing (John Healey) on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1315W, to question 292854 on National Policy Statements (NPSs) for the timetable for the preparation of the first tranche NPSs on nationally significant infrastructure.

The remaining four NPSs are being produced on a longer time frame. We intend to consult on the waste water NPSs in spring 2010 and hazardous waste NPS in summer 2010, and aim to designate them in 2011. We intend to consult on the airports NPS by 2011 with a view to designating it later that year. Finally we intend to consult on the water supply NPS in late 2010 once the final water resource management plans are published, which are needed to inform the NPS, with the aim of designating that NPS by early 2012.

New Economics Foundation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments his Department has made to the New Economics Foundation since its inception; and for what purposes each such payment was made. [294510]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not made any payments to the New Economics Foundation to date in this financial year.

Non-Domestic Rates: Advertising

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a billboard site with no poster is deemed to be an empty property for the purposes of empty property rates relief. [294100]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer previously given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2065-066W.

The legal provisions on the rating of hereditaments where advertising rights are concerned are complex and the legal position will very much depend on the exact facts at play. However, in many cases it is the right to use a boarding or other structure for advertising which is the hereditament and, therefore, which is rateable. In such circumstances that hereditament is considered occupied for rating purposes whether or not the advertising right is being exercised.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of hereditaments in London are *(a)* above and *(b)* below the £50,000 rateable value threshold according to (i) the 2005 Rating List and (ii) the latest modelling for the 2010 Rating List. [294092]

Barbara Follett: The HMRC figures published for the 2005 Ratings List at April 1 2009 show a total of 280,000 hereditaments in London. Of these, 240,000 hereditaments (86 per cent. of all London hereditaments) were equal to or were below the £50,000 threshold, while 40,000 hereditaments were above that threshold (14 per cent. of all London hereditaments).

The draft 2010 Ratings List has a total of 280,000 hereditaments in London. Of these 230,000 hereditaments (82 per cent.) of all London hereditaments) were equal to or below the £50,000 threshold and 50,000 hereditaments were above that threshold (18 per cent. of all London hereditaments). The dataset used is consistent with the consultation document titled: "The transitional arrangements for the non-domestic rating revaluation 2010 in England", published on 8 July 2009.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nndrrevaluation2010

Please note all figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Non-Governmental Organisations: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations operating at local level which receive funding from the public purse. [293235]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) operate at both national and regional level. Some, but not all of these, deliver services locally. According to Public Bodies 2008, as at 31 March 2008 there were 790 NDPBs sponsored by the UK Government. This is a fall of 67 (8 per cent.) since 1997. Copies of Public Bodies 2008 are available from the Libraries of the House. Public Bodies 2009 will be published in the New Year.

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the revenue raised by local authorities from parking *(a)* fines and *(b)* charges in the latest year for which figures are available. [294147]

Barbara Follett: The latest outturn information for England on the revenue raised by local authorities from on-street parking was as follows:

Penalty charge notice income: £333.5 million;

Other sales, fees and charges: £324.5 million.

These were published in Annex A5 of the 'Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing England 2007-08 Final Outturn' on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/revenue200708finaloutturn

Parking: Supermarkets

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent representations his Department has received on the merits of levying charges to park at supermarkets; [292889]

(2) what representations his Department has received on supermarket parking charges to be issued by local authorities under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [294134]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not received any representations on supermarket parking charges to be issued by local authorities under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 ('the Act'). In line with the Act, the Secretary of State is co-operating with the Local Government Association in its capacity as the selector as it considers proposals submitted under the Act and draws up a short-list for the Secretary of State to consider.

The Local Government Association is considering proposals submitted under the Act and has received two proposals on supermarket parking charges;

> Exeter city council—in summary the proposal is for Government to give Exeter city council the power to retain revenue from locally imposed non-domestic rates on store car parking spaces, with the power for the Council to allow discounts to stores that source at least 30 per cent. of goods from within 30 miles of Exeter (and which are not first transported to a distribution centre more than 30 miles away).
>
> Lewes district council—in summary the proposal is for the Secretary of State to take power, or to give local authorities the power, to levy non domestic rates on all store car parking spaces with a power for the council to allow discounts (perhaps up to 100 per cent.) if the supermarket or other store, sources a stated percentage of goods for sale locally.

Planning Permission: Agriculture

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to planning protection arrangements for farmland classified as Best and Most Valued since May 1997; and whether impact assessments were undertaken on the likely effects on England's agricultural capacity of such change. [294136]

Mr. Ian Austin: Planning Policy Guidance note 7 "The Countryside, Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development" (PPG7), published in February 1997, was amended by a policy statement issued by the then Planning Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Greenwich and Woolwich (Mr. Raynsford), on 21 March 2001 to reflect the policy proposals of the Rural White Paper, "Our Countryside: The Future" (2000) that decisions about proposed development affecting BMV agricultural land should take account of the overall value of the land and that agricultural quality should be treated as one factor. Full details were given in response to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles), *Official Report*, columns 1339-40W.

The policy in the statement was subsequently carried forward (in 2004) into Planning Policy Statement 7: "Sustainable Development in Rural Areas" (PPS7) without change. Draft PPS7 was accompanied by a published impact assessment.

However, DEFRA have recently published "Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England". This announced that they will publish a new toolkit for planners in 2010 to help them to take account of soil functions, including soil carbon storage, in the planning system, and work with this Department to review the effectiveness of the existing planning policy to protect important soils, and whether there is a need to update the policy.

Planning Policy Statement 4

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who responded to his Department's consultation on draft Planning Policy Statement 4. [293157]

Mr. Ian Austin: A list of the respondents to the Draft Planning Policy Statement 4 will be included as part of the summary of consultation responses which we will publish shortly.

Regional Planning and Development: East of England

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether letters have been sent to local authorities in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* the South East by the relevant Government Office on the weight to be given to draft regional spatial strategies; and what guidance is being given to local authorities on the weight to be given to elements of regional spatial strategies which are subject to legal action pending the outcome of that action. [293156]

Mr. Ian Austin: Policies relating to two districts in the East of England have been remitted to the Secretary of State for further work on the sustainability appraisal. Policies relating to two further districts in the South East of England are currently subject to legal challenge. All other policies in the regional spatial strategies for both the East of England and the South East should be treated as with full development plan status.

Government office for the East of England have published a statement on their website. Further advice for the South East will follow the outcomes of the legal challenges.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest timetable is for approval of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy. [290474]

Mr. Malik: The Government announced on 25 September 2009 that they will carry out a further appraisal of whether its proposals for the Regional Spatial Strategy for South West England (SW RSS) are the most sustainable way forward for the Region.

In light of the appraisal's findings, the Government will then decide what action to take to complete the strategy to provide the clarity and certainty about the future framework for growth in the region which all partners are keen to see.

Shared Ownership Lending Working Group

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the membership of the Shared Ownership Lending Working Group is; what terms of reference have been set for the Group; and on what dates the Group has met. [illegible]

John Healey: The Shared Ownership Lending Working Group is an official led group comprising representatives from Communities and Local Government, the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the National Housing Federation, the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenant Services Authority.

The working group is examining how to overcome some of the potential barriers and disincentives to shared ownership lending. The group has met on four occasions to-date i.e. 9 June, 15 July, 19 August and 14 September.

Social Rented Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department plans to take in response to the report by Professor John Hills' on social housing and social mobility. [294146]

Mr. Ian Austin: John Hills' report has made a significant contribution to the debate about the role of social housing. This Government have taken decisive action to address the challenges raised in John's report and the challenges raised by the current economic climate. We have committed to investing £7.5 billion over two years to deliver up to 112,000 affordable homes and around 15,000 private homes, including £340 million to support local authorities in delivering new council housing. I am also introducing a range of major reforms to the social and private rented sector. This includes the consultations I have recently published on a devolved system of responsibility and funding for council housing, a major review of the private rented sector and changes to social housing allocations to give people confidence that councils allocate housing in their area fairly, and the initiative I have launched to clamp-down on fraud in the social sector. In addition, I will be setting out further details of the Government's plans to support housing recovery and ensure people have access to decent homes later this year.

Social Rented Housing: Tenants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to encourage social landlords to allow social tenants to engage in home working. [illegible]

Mr. Ian Austin: Government are working with social landlords to encourage greater levels of employment among tenants.

Street Warden Scheme: Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has issued to local authorities on use of stab-proof vests by street wardens. [illegible]

Mr. Malik: This Department has not issued guidance to local authorities on the use of stab-proof vests by street wardens. It is for local authorities, and other organisations employing wardens, to decide how their wardens should be equipped, in the light of local circumstances and health and safety requirements.

Town and Country Planning Association: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 21 of his Department's Resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC 449, how much his Department has budgeted for payment to the Town and Country Planning Association in 2009-10 for work on eco-towns. [294658]

John Healey: We are currently agreeing an eco-towns work plan with the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) as we move into the implementation stage of the Eco-towns programme, following publication of "Planning Policy Statement: eco-towns". As part of this the TCPA will complete the series of best practice worksheets to support those taking forward eco-towns, and we have allocated £22,000 in 2009-10 for this work.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of planning appeals relating to Traveller sites (1) were *(a)* granted and *(b)* dismissed in the two years prior to the introduction of Circular 01/06; [292577]

(2) have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* dismissed since the introduction of Circular 01/06. [292995]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Planning Inspectorate's data base does not record planning appeals in this way.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce the additional amount householders in receipt of a grant from the Warm Front Scheme pay. [294123]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* On 23 April we announced our intention to increase Warm Front grant levels from £2,700 to £3,500 (or from £4,000 to £6,000 where oil or a low carbon technology is recommended).

The number of households that are now asked to make a contribution to the cost of works has reduced from around one in five households, to one in 10.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Coventry have received Warm Front Scheme grants to date; and what the average additional amount paid by householders was. [294124]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The following table shows the number of households in Coventry that have received assistance from the Warm Front Scheme, and the average additional amount paid by householders to 30 September 2009.

Households assisted by Warm Front in Coventry from June 2000 to 30 September 2009:

	Number/(£)
Total number of households assisted	14,821
Number of households that paid an additional amount	1,808
Average additional amount paid per household (£)[1]	394.41

[1] £394.41 is the average additional amount paid by those 1,808 households that paid a contribution.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Opium

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the opium crop harvested in Afghanistan in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [293680]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides estimates of the value of the Afghan opium crop at "farm-gate" prices (the value the farmer receives) in their annual Afghan Opium Surveys. These figures reflect changes in the opium price and poppy cultivation. The estimated values for the last five years are in the following table:

	US$ billion
2005	0.56
2006	0.76
2007	1
2008	0.732
2009	0.438

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the outcome of the Butmir meeting on 9 October in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and what the Government's policy is on political reform in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [293783]

David Miliband: We welcome and fully support this joint EU/US push for political reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). It provides an important opportunity to make progress on priority areas for reform in BiH and we are urging BiH's political leaders to engage fully and constructively ahead of and during the next scheduled meeting on 20-21 October 2009.

Gilad Shalit

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had since July 2009 with Arab governments on *(a)* the imprisonment of Israeli Soldier Gilad Shalit by Hamas and *(b)* the refusal of Hamas to allow Gilad Shalit visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross; and if he will make a statement. [293287]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I raised the continued captivity of Gilad Shalit and Hamas' refusal to allow humanitarian access with the Palestinian authorities during my visit to the region in August 2009. We have also made our position on these issues very clear in international meetings, most recently in the Security Council debate on the Middle East on 14 October 2009.

Guinea

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government has made of the level of respect for human rights in Guinea following the violence at an Opposition rally on 28 September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [293779]

David Miliband: We believe that an accurate assessment of the human rights situation in Guinea can only be secured by an independent investigation into recent events, including the gross violations that took place on 28 September. The UK, as a member of the International Contact Group for Guinea, is actively considering with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States the scope for an urgent independent international inquiry to conduct such an investigation.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to assist regional mediation efforts to restore democracy and constitutional order in Guinea following the violence at an Opposition rally on 28 September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [293780]

David Miliband: As a member of the International Contact Group for Guinea, the UK is in regular contact with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union encouraging and supporting them in their efforts to take urgent and robust action on Guinea. We support the appointment by ECOWAS of President Campoare of Burkina Faso as mediator to the current crisis in Guinea.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Iranian Government on the development of a nuclear programme in that country in the last month; and what the outcomes were of such discussions. [293281]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Iranian Foreign Minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, in the margins of the UN General Assembly on 22 September 2009. He underlined to Mr. Mottaki the need for Iran to restore the international community's confidence in Iran's nuclear programme through the path the E3+3 had laid out, stressing in particular the need for transparency.

The Foreign Secretary and his E3+3 colleagues met on 23 September 2009 and agreed on the E3+3's strategy. Following this, officials from the E3+3 and Iran met on 1 October 2009. This meeting agreed on several practical steps that, if they come to fruition, may build confidence. We look to the next meeting of the group, before the end of October 2009, to make progress on the key issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme.

Karpas

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times officials from his Department have visited Greek Cypriot people living in enclaves in the Karpas in the last 12 months; what the outcomes were of those visits; and if he will make a statement. [293722]

Chris Bryant: The British high commission frequently visit the Karpaz region and we follow events there closely. The high commissioner recently met with the Bishop of Karpaz and with the Rizokarpasso associations, where he discussed the position of the Greek Cypriot people living in the Karpaz.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Quartet counterparts regarding the renewal of the tenure of the Quartet Special Envoy; and if he will make a statement. [293767]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with his counterparts about the tenure of the Quartet Representative.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report,* column 381, on the Middle East: peace negotiations, how many staff his Department plans to second to support the role of the Quartet Special Envoy in 2010; what the *(a)* grades and *(b)* salary ranges of such staff will be; and if he will make a statement. [293768]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has currently seconded one higher executive officer equivalent (salary range £23,157 to £33,004) and one senior civil servant (salary range £58,200 to £117,750) to work in the Quartet Representative's office. There are no plans to change this.

Northern Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will commission research on the likely numbers of Greek Cypriots who would return to live under the Turkish Cypriot administration in northern Cyprus in the event of a settlement. [293744]

Chris Bryant: No.

Somalia: Piracy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance the EU has provided to the Kenyan government to improve its naval capacity in relation to the suppression of piracy off the coast of Somalia. [292667]

Chris Bryant: The EU and its member states are eager to support capacity building in Kenya, and the Kenyan Government have been engaged in dialogue to ascertain priority needs, including regarding naval capacity. The UK, as chair of Working Group 1 of the international Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), led a needs assessment mission to the Horn of Africa in September 2009, involving the European Commission as well as other partners. The assessment identified a number of priority Kenyan naval requirements, and these will be discussed shortly among CGPCS partners.

On wider counter-piracy activity, the European Commission is supporting the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the implementation of a jointly developed programme for support for the trial and related treatment of piracy suspects in Kenya. The programme budget is €1.75 million. This programme began on 15 May 2009 and will run for 18 months, with other countries also contributing to this project.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to other EU member states on the renewal of Generalised System of Preferences plans in respect of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [293099]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The issue of the renewal of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP+) in respect of Sri Lanka has been raised in several meetings with my EU counterparts. Along with other EU member states the United Kingdom supported the EU Commission's decision to initiate an investigation into Sri Lanka's effective implementation of the GSP+ conventions.

The UK Government are committed to ensuring that the GSP+ scheme is robust and effectively implemented. It is important that we treat all countries objectively and fairly, according to the GSP+ regulation. We have consistently encouraged the Government of Sri Lanka to engage constructively with the European Commission in its investigation.

UN Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Government plans to ratify the amendment to the UN Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material; and if he will make a statement. [293138]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Explanatory Memorandum and Command Paper concerning the convention on the physical protection of nuclear material was laid before Parliament on 16 July 2009 for the required 21 sitting days, ending on 4 November 2009. After 4 November 2009 the instrument of ratification will be prepared by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and signed by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. We expect to be in a position to ratify the convention by early January 2010.

USA: Nuclear Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on methods by which the international stockpile of nuclear weapons may be reduced. [293314]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: President Barack Obama's engagement and leadership on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament have intensified our already close counter-proliferation co-operation with the US.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regularly discuss these issues, in particular the Iran nuclear case which requires regular close high-level engagement. The US values the UK's contribution.

President Obama warmly welcomed the UK's "Road to 2010" blueprint on nuclear non-proliferation launched by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 16 July 2009 and Secretary of State Clinton gave strong praise to the UK's ideas leadership in the run-up to last month's historic UN Security Council Summit chaired by President Bill Clinton.

B[illegible]INESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's estimates are for the number of apprenticeship places available in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; and what the target number of apprenticeship places for each of these years was in 2007. [291362]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 September 2009]*: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills do not create estimates for the number of apprenticeships places that will be available each year but produce trajectories based on available funding. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Grant Letter 2009-10 published in November 2008 set out the planned number of LSC funded apprenticeships starts for academic years 2008/09 and 2009/10 (Table 1.1 as follows).

Table 1.1: Funded apprenticeship starts (academic years)

	Total starts
2008/09	228,000
2009/10	238,000

Note:
Agreed funding from the LSC Grant Letter 2009-10 published in November 2008.

In addition to these places, on 7 January 2009 the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package to provide an extra 35,000 Apprenticeship places over the financial year 2009-10.

Funding has not been agreed for subsequent years and so agreed trajectories for 2010/11 onwards have yet to be constructed but we are aiming to deliver 250,000 starts per year by 2020.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people *(a)* started and *(b)* completed a higher apprenticeship in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [292443]

Kevin Brennan: Higher-level apprenticeships were introduced in the 2006-07 academic year, and are only available in a limited number of frameworks, such as engineering and ICT.

In 2007-08, there were 60 higher-level apprenticeship starts, the latest full-year for which we have data. In the first nine months of 2008-09 (provisional), there were 90 higher-level apprenticeship starts.

Due to the length of these programmes, as at 30 April 2009, there have been 10 higher-level apprenticeship framework completions.

The Department will shortly publish the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards For England (SASE), which will for the first time set out the essential components and standards for all apprenticeship frameworks. The SASE will require that all apprenticeship frameworks include clear career progression routes, including those through higher and further education. Over time, as we encourage the development of more higher-level apprenticeship frameworks, we would expect that more people will progress from an advanced apprenticeship, to develop these higher level skills.

Apprentices: Unemployment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people completing apprenticeships remained unemployed two years after the apprenticeship ended in the latest period for which figures are available. [290082]

Kevin Brennan: An apprenticeship is a work-based programme and an apprentice must have a job or a work placement as a condition of completing their apprenticeship framework. Many will already be in permanent employment prior to the end of their apprenticeship. Management information on the subsequent employment of apprentices is not available.

We collect information about the destinations of learners in to learning and employment through the Framework for Excellence. We expect to review the quality and relevance of this data in the future, including the feasibility of how it can be used to identify the employment status of those learners who have completed apprenticeships.

Aspire Fund

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been distributed to companies from his Department's Aspire Fund since 19 November 2008; how many companies have received such funding; and how many awards from that fund have been *(a)* below £100,000, *(b)* between £100,000 and £299,000, *(c)* between £300,000 and £499,000, *(d)* between £500,000 and £749,000, *(e)* between £750,000 and £999,000, *(f)* between £1 million and £1.49 million, *(g)* between £1.5 million and £2 million and *(h)* over £2 million. [285056]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On 7 July 2009 a first investment was completed worth £700,000 which included funding of £350,000 from the Aspire Fund. On 11 August 2009, a second offer totalling £1 million and including £400,000 Aspire funding was also completed.

There are two further deals in legal stages, one of which totals £1.5 million of funding with the Aspire Fund providing £400,000 towards that investment. The second totals £1.3 million of funding with the Aspire Fund providing £350,000 towards investment. These two deals are expected to complete in early September.

There are seven further potential deals under active consideration looking to raise £4.6 million in total, with the Aspire Fund providing approximately £2.2 million of this.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to assist *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in Essex; and if he will make a statement. [280980]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1689W.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many *(a)* start-up and *(b)* established businesses in each region had received assistance from each participating bank under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme on the latest date for which figures are available; [286233]

(2) when he plans to respond to question 286233, on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme, tabled on 8 July 2009. [292027]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee was launched on 14 January. The tables provide details of the number and value of loans offered and drawn down by age of business for each region.

Number of loans offered

Region	*Not known*	*0 to 3 months*	*3 months to 1 year*	*1 to 2 years*	*2 to 3 years*	*3 to 4 years*	*4 to 5 years*	*Over 5 years*	*Total*
East Midlands	—	38	27	19	26	29	11	181	331
East of England	2	76	33	45	37	28	38	287	546
London	2	66	39	35	38	37	35	293	545
North East	—	24	8	14	19	10	10	80	165
North West	1	78	44	33	37	40	46	208	487
Northern Ireland	—	5	2	3	4	4	2	24	44
Scotland	—	69	18	21	17	19	19	150	313
South East	1	74	42	45	36	48	40	390	676
South West	3	55	32	42	42	43	46	274	537
Wales	1	44	10	16	17	12	13	121	234
West Midlands	2	64	25	32	36	27	30	228	444
Yorkshire and the Humber	2	52	26	17	13	19	18	134	281
Total	14	645	306	322	322	316	308	2,370	4,603

Value of loans offered

£ million

Region	*Not known*	*0 to 3 months*	*3 months to 1 year*	*1 to 2 years*	*2 to 3 years*	*3 to 4 years*	*4 to 5 years*	*Over 5 years*	*Total*
East Midlands	—	2.98	1.79	1.00	2.87	1.47	1.74	24.34	36.18
East of England	0.22	4.64	0.92	2.35	3.32	1.82	3.69	30.21	47.16
London	0.41	5.02	2.80	3.30	2.60	3.36	3.14	39.60	60.22
North East	—	1.79	0.61	0.72	1.60	0.51	0.59	10.15	15.98
North West	0.25	4.83	3.04	2.05	2.65	4.25	6.16	23.84	47.08
Northern Ireland	—	0.88	0.14	0.37	1.11	0.10	0.25	5.70	8.55
Scotland	—	3.48	1.17	4.25	1.58	2.60	2.07	29.02	41.16
South East	0.10	5.81	3.12	3.10	3.75	3.53	3.38	45.09	8.55
South West	0.13	2.77	2.50	2.03	2.25	2.21	3.56	32.61	41.16
Wales	0.03	2.57	0.60	1.35	0.71	0.66	1.12	10.89	67.89
West Midlands	0.24	4.62	1.26	3.01	3.13	1.47	1.81	26.40	48.06

Value of loans offered

£ million

Region	*Not known*	*0 to 3 months*	*3 months to 1 year*	*1 to 2 years*	*2 to 3 years*	*3 to 4 years*	*4 to 5 years*	*Over 5 years*	*Total*
Yorkshire and the Humber	1.17	2.90	2.34	1.18	1.04	1.33	1.82	17.89	29.68
Total	2.55	42.29	20.27	21.73	26.61	23.30	29.33	295.74	461.82

Number of loans drawn

Region	*Not known*	*0 to 3 months*	*3 months to 1 year*	*1 to 2 years*	*2 to 3 years*	*3 to 4 years*	*4 to 5 years*	*Over 5 years*	*Total*
East Midlands	—	29	20	16	20	20	6	137	248
East of England	2	55	28	37	29	20	29	217	417
London	2	50	31	27	24	28	23	211	396
North East	—	17	5	12	15	6	10	61	126
North West	1	62	38	28	33	35	42	175	414
Northern Ireland	—	4	2	2	4	—	1	15	28
Scotland	—	54	12	17	14	17	17	124	255
South East	1	57	37	37	25	42	28	294	521
South West	2	39	26	31	37	37	37	213	422
Wales	1	29	7	14	15	8	10	86	170
West Midlands	1	49	19	27	30	22	23	170	341
Yorkshire and the Humber	1	44	23	14	12	17	14	95	220
Total	11	489	248	262	258	252	240	1,798	3,558

Value of loans drawn

£ million

Region	*Not known*	*0 to 3 months*	*3 months to 1 year*	*1 to 2 years*	*2 to 3 years*	*3 to 4 years*	*4 to 5 years*	*Over 5 years*	*Total*
East Midlands	—	2.38	1.51	0.72	2.02	1.02	0.91	17.64	26.22
East of England	0.22	2.71	0.79	2.09	2.91	1.36	3.39	23.13	36.60
London	0.41	3.43	2.01	2.37	1.47	2.37	2.48	26.89	41.43
North East	—	1.05	0.47	0.65	1.24	0.35	0.59	6.55	10.90
North West	0.25	3.99	2.77	1.89	2.32	3.49	5.54	20.65	40.90
Northern Ireland	—	0.81	0.14	0.28	1.11		0.02	3.24	5.59
Scotland	—	3.02	0.83	1.15	0.99	2.46	1.87	22.43	32.75
South East	0.10	3.88	2.83	2.67	2.30	3.13	2.07	32.82	50.81
South West	0.07	2.12	2.10	1.32	1.99	1.95	2.37	22.56	34.48
Wales	0.03	1.71	0.41	0.85	0.60	0.34	0.73	6.85	11.53
West Midlands	0.06	3.37	0.84	2.74	1.88	1.17	1.49	19.26	30.80
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.59	2.38	1.66	1.01	0.92	1.17	1.40	12.63	21.75
Total	1.71	30.83	16.39	17.72	19.75	18.80	22.88	215.64	343.73

Charlie Whelan

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 1047W, on Charlie Whelan, whether the EU Agency Workers Directive was discussed at the meeting between the Secretary of State and Charlie Whelan on 15 January 2009. [294745]

Mr. McFadden: The EU agency workers directive was not discussed but rather employment issues in the automotive sector.

Departmental Research

Mr. Doran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned on the extent to which pension matters are included in collective bargaining negotiations; and if he will make a statement. [294310]

Mr. McFadden: Officials in BIS and DWP have undertaken several case studies examining the way particular organisations and their trade unions have addressed pension matters within the context of collective bargaining. No external research has been commissioned on this topic.

Finance: Environment Protection

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of the £250 million Low Carbon Industrial Strategy Fund has been *(a)* allocated and (b) spent to date on each project which has received funding. [294721]

Mr. McFadden: The first investments from the £250 million of funding for low carbon economic development in the Strategic Investment Fund were set out in the UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy on 15 July and further investments have since also been announced. The funding that has been committed, or earmarked for specific projects and investments, includes:

Up to £120 million to support development of a British based offshore wind industry.

Up to £30 million to capitalise on Britain's wave and tidal sector strengths

Up to £10 million for the accelerated deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

A £4 million expansion of the Manufacturing Advisory Service.

£45 million to support research and technology into low carbon aeroengine projects.

£2.5 million to a Carbon Trust technology investment joint venture to help UK companies develop new low carbon technologies in China.

By way of example, specific projects supported include Wave Hub—a groundbreaking project in the south west of England creating the UK's first offshore facility for the demonstration of wave energy generation devices; and marine energy testing facilities at the New and Renewable Energy Centre (NaREC). Offshore wind investments include funding for new offshore wind manufacturing facilities in the UK and investment in the development of next generation and near-market offshore wind technologies through large scale demonstration.

The Department has published an update on the entire £750 million Strategic Investment Fund, of which the low carbon SIF is a part, and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Further Education: Hampshire

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many further education colleges in Hampshire have delayed building projects because of problems with funding from the Learning and Skills Council; and what the estimated cost of each of these projects is. [292496]

Kevin Brennan: Capital funding for Further Education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Member with the further information requested.

A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Higher Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the undergraduate completion rate in higher education was in each higher education institution in each year since 2003. [294329]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes the 'Performance Indicators in Higher Education' which cover projected outcomes of full-time first degree starters.

The following link shows the relevant part of the HESA website to access data since 2003:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/

Table 5 covers projected outcomes of full-time first degree starters. The completion rate covers starters who are expected to gain a degree. However, the more frequently used rate is the non completion rate (projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another institution) which accounts for starters who obtain another award, or transfer.

The completion rate tables lag behind the widening participation indicators by one year due to the need for an extra year's data to determine which students are still in HE. Therefore, the most recent figures refer to the 2006/07 academic year. Projected outcomes for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in 2010.

The UK is maintaining very good completion rates for first degrees with the latest statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development showing that the UK ranks 3rd of the 27 countries reporting data in this area. This has been achieved and maintained during a period when higher education has been opened up to both increased numbers and a greater diversity of students.

Higher Education: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of applicants from Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who achieved the required grades but did not secure a place at a university in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [293534]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not held centrally. Each institution is autonomous and can set their own academic and non-academic entry requirements for each course.

Higher Education: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students who had obtained A-Levels or an equivalent qualification in Leeds North West went on to higher education during the latest period for which figures are available. [294304]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) shows that in the 2007-08 academic year there were 565 all-aged undergraduate entrants to higher education from the Leeds North West constituency, who had obtained A-Levels or an equivalent qualification as their highest qualification on entry.

Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available from HESA in January 2010.

Legal Profession: Fees and Charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service has made of the effect of no-win no-fee lawyers in employment tribunals. [292602]

Mr. McFadden: The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) has made no assessment of the effect of no-win no-fee lawyers in employment tribunals.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will publish the protocol on how the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service responds to the intervention of no-win no-fee lawyers in employment tribunals. [292603]

Mr. McFadden: The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) has no specific protocol on dealing with no-win no-fee lawyers in employment tribunal claims. Where parties have appointed representatives in relation to such proceedings, and wish ACAS to communicate with them through their representatives, the conciliator will do so. This applies in the same way regardless of what arrangements the party and their representative may have entered into over fees for the provision of advice and/or representation.

Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what projects have been granted funding under the advanced manufacturing package. [294722]

Ian Lucas: The advanced manufacturing package announced on 28 July 2009 provides £151.5 million of support to British manufacturers. Key projects include £45 million funding to Rolls-Royce to support four new advanced manufacturing facilities built in the UK, £45 million to support Rolls-Royce led research and technology critical to the development of low-carbon aircraft engines, £40 million investment in SAMULET research and technology programme, a £12 million expansion of the Printable Electronics Centre in Sedgefield, an additional £5 million investment from the Technology Strategy Board in collaborative R&D projects as part of its high value manufacturing competition, and a £0.5 million investment to support the development of a centre of excellence for silicon design in the south west.

Post Offices: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the extent to which Post Office services in North East Fife constituency comply with the access criteria set out in the Network Change Programme. [293978]

Mr. McFadden: I understand from Post Office Ltd. that Post Office services in North East Fife constituency comply with the access criteria as set out in the Network Change Programme. All of the local postcode districts meet the local access criteria and have done so since the criteria were introduced.

Postage Stamps: Prices

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment the Government have made of the effect on businesses of an increase in the price of first and second class stamps. [293434]

Mr. McFadden: Postcomm's price control proposals are subject to a current public consultation. The Government would encourage all interested or concerned parties to respond to the consultation which is due to close on October 26, 2009. More details can be found on the Regulator's website at:

http://www.psc.gov.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/2009/consultation-on-changes-to-price-control-from-april-2010.html

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with Royal Mail on plans to increase the price of first and second class stamps. [293435]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers and BIS officials meet with representatives from Royal Mail on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues, including regulatory issues. No specific meetings have been held to discuss the current price control proposals.

We would strongly encourage all interested stakeholders to respond to the current consultation which is due to close on October 26 2009. More information can be found on the regulator's website:

http://www.psc.gov.uk/news-and-events/news-releases/2009/consultation-on-changes-to-price-control-from-april-2010.html

Publishing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has undertaken an analysis of skills needs in the publishing industry; what assessment he has made of digital skills needs in the industry; and if he will make a statement. [292018]

Kevin Brennan: The Department supports the work of the Sector Skills Council Skillset which covers the publishing industry. Skillset began working with the publishing industry in April 2008. Since then, they have completed primary and secondary research into the size, shape and skills needs of the sector. A Publishing Skills Needs Analysis was published by Skillset at the beginning of 2009 and a copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Industry consultation led by Skillset took place in the spring and a skills strategy and action plan has subsequently been produced. This has identified five strategic areas of focus. These are to develop skills for the workforce in a digital context; inform aspiring entrants of the realities of the industry and improve diversity and equality of access; develop marketing, advertising and media sales skills for the work force; identify leadership, management and business support opportunities; and bridge the gap between education and employment and the relevance of higher and further education. A number of projects are under way to address these goals.

Royal Mail

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what volume of mail was handled by Royal Mail in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007, *(e)* 2008 and *(f)* 2009. [294582]

Mr. McFadden: I include a table of mail volumes delivered by Royal Mail every working day for each of the years in question.

Financial year (April-March)	*Volume of mail delivered every working day by Royal Mail (to the nearest million items)*
1996-97	66
2004-05	84
2005-06	84
2006-07	83
2007-08	80
2008-09	75

Royal Mail: Industrial Disputes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many working days at Royal Mail have been lost owing to industrial action in each year since 2000. [294579]

Mr. McFadden: I include a table of working days lost at Royal Mail each year since 2000 owing to industrial action.

Financial year (April-March)	*Working days lost*
2000-01	62,909
2001-02	53,139
2002-03	5,766
2003-04	85,464
2004-05	7,099
2005-06	12,428
2006-07	6,921
2007-08	627,608
2008-09	1,167
2009 (April to 12 October)	130,272

Royal Mail: Meetings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings between the management of Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union a Minister from the Government have attended in the last 12 months; and in what capacity such Ministers attended in each case. [294547]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers have not attended any joint meetings between the management of Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union in the last 12 months. Ministers keep in regular touch with both Royal Mail management and the Communication Workers Union.

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of learners trained under the Train to Gain programme who would have received training from their employer in the absence of the programme. [290270]

Kevin Brennan: We have made no such estimate.

Train to Gain: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to simplify the operation of Train to Gain; what the annual budget for Train to Gain is; and if he will discuss how to improve its operation with regional development agencies. [292435]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has introduced a range of measures to streamline Train to Gain for employers and skills providers and to simplify access. For example, we have brought together the Train to Gain and Business Link brokerage services to make it easier for businesses to identify the learning requirements of their staff, alongside their wider business needs. We are continuing to monitor Train to Gain with the aim of reducing paperwork and easing administrative burdens on providers.

The budget for 2009-10 is £925 million as set out in the Learning and Skills Council Grant Letter for 2009-10.

In future Regional Development Agencies will have a stronger role in articulating skills priorities for their regions, which will influence training provision through Train to Gain and other programmes.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the reasons are for the time taken to answer question 245130, tabled on 15 December 2008, on replies to correspondence. [286350]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 16 July 2009]:* I am responding to the hon. Member today.

Substantive answer from Kevin Brennan to Adrian Sanders:

I apologise to the hon. Member for the extraordinary delay in responding to his question.

The issue raised in his original correspondence was unusually difficult in terms of departmental lead, and officials mistakenly decided to wait until a decision had been made before responding to the question.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each police force area were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* cautioned and *(c)* issued with a penalty notice for disorder for selling alcohol to a person under the age of 18 in 2008. [294206]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data from 2008 will be available in January 2010.

Asylum: Children

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have sought asylum in the UK in each of the last five years; how many such children have been the subject of an age dispute; and how many such age dispute cases were resolved in favour of the asylum claimant. [289400]

Alan Johnson: The following table shows the number of asylum applications by unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs) made between 2004 and 2008 and the number of applications which were the subject of an age dispute. Figures on the number of asylum applications by unaccompanied asylum seeking children involving an age dispute which were subsequently resolved in favour of the applicant are not collated by the UK Border Agency and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. The "Quarterly Control of Immigration Q2 2009" and the annual "Control of Immigration 2008" was published on 27 August 2009 and is available in the House Library and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children applications received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, on applications and age disputed applications, 2004-08[1]

						Principal applicants
	Applications[2, 3]			*Age disputed applications*[4, 5]		
	Total	*Port*	*In country*	*Total*	*Port*	*In country*
2004	2,990	540	2,455	2,345	265	2,080
2005	2,965	445	2,520	2,425	215	2,215
2006	3,450	395	3,055	2,270	215	2,055
2007[6]	3,525	460	3,065	1,915	225	1,690
2008[6]	3,970	350	3,620	1,390	135	1,255

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, with '*' = 1 or 2 and '-' =0 and may not sum due to independent rounding.

[2] An Unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) is a person under 18, or who, in the absence of documentary evidence establishing age, appears to be under that age; is applying for asylum in his or her own right and; is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who by law or custom has responsibility to do so.

[3] Figures exclude age dispute cases.

[4] An age dispute case refers to an applicant who claims to be a child, but whose appearance and/or demeanour strongly suggests that they are 18 or over, and whose age is disputed by the UK Border Agency unless there is credible documentary or other persuasive evidence to demonstrate the age claimed.

[5] Includes cases for which age disputed at time of application.

[6] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in which local authority areas the UK Border Agency has housed asylum seekers who are eligible for temporary accommodation in housing owned by social landlords; [289358]

(2) in which local authority areas the UK Border Agency has rented empty social housing to accommodate asylum seekers. [289359]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has 30 contracts with 18 suppliers on a national basis for the provision of accommodation for eligible asylum seekers.

The UK Border Agency has contracts with:

Five public sector consortia:

North West Consortium (which comprises Manchester city council, Blackburn with Darwen council, Oldham metropolitan borough council, Bolton metropolitan borough council, council of the city of Salford, Bury Metropolitan borough council and Rochdale metropolitan borough council).

West Midlands Consortium (which comprises Birmingham city council, Coventry city council, Dudley metropolitan borough council and Wolverhampton city council).

Yorkshire and Humberside Consortium (which comprises Leeds city council., The Sheffield city council, The borough council of Calderdale, Kingston Upon Hull city council, The council borough of Kirklees, The city of Wakefield metropolitan district council, The City of Bradford metropolitan district council, Barnsley metropolitan borough council, Doncaster borough council and Rotherham borough council).

North East Consortium (which comprises Newcastle Upon Tyne city council, Gateshead metropolitan borough council, Sunderland city council, Tyneside Metropolitan borough council, Middlesbrough borough council, Stockton borough council and Darlington borough council).

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Five city councils:

Liverpool

Nottingham

Cardiff

Swansea

Glasgow

Two not-for-profit organisations:

YMCA Glasgow

Refugee Housing Association (operating in Derby, Leicester and Nottingham)

Six private sector companies

The consortia, the city councils and the not-for-profit organisations may partly or wholly source their accommodation from social landlords.

The UK Border Agency does not maintain records of which particular accommodation units are sourced from social landlords. However, unless the UK Border Agency permitted sharing within relevant law then the property would be empty before accommodating asylum seekers.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 137W, on Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), what data is collected by the National ANPR Data Centre other than that ANPR data which is collected and stored locally. [289590]

Alan Johnson: The only data collected by the National ANPR Data Centre (NADC) are that which are collected and stored locally.

The NADC is currently under development and test. There are 40 police forces now supplying data and all police forces will be doing so by the end of 2009.

Information specifically relating to 2005 is not held centrally and some information would not be held on either the local or central ANPR systems.

British Nationality

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have become regularised British citizens by each route to nationality in each year since 1997. [294153]

Alan Johnson: Statistics on persons granted British citizenship are published annually and quarterly in the Home Office Statistical Bulletins "British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2008" and "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom July to September 2009". These publications may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Broadcasting Programmes: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department allocated to support the television production Good 4 the Hood. [294483]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The Home Office partnered with the youth targeted channel MTV to develop the Good 4 The Hood campaign, to engage and inspire young people to be part of the solution in overcoming crime in their local area. The Home Office has spent a total of £70,000 on production costs for the Good 4 The Hood campaign. These costs included the production of TV and online adverts, a bespoke website and the four part MTV series.

Cybercrime: EC Action

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he plans to take towards ratification of the European Cybercrime Convention. [294207]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to ratifying the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention. We are currently working through the process of ratification, following which we will lay the required Explanatory Memorandum before Parliament to obtain approval for ratification. If Parliament agrees to ratification, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will then commence the formal ratification process with the Council of Europe.

DNA: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many profiles have been removed from the national DNA database by each police force in each month since 9 March 2009; and if he will make a statement. [294061]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Table 1 shows the number of subject profiles removed from the National DNA Database under the exceptional case procedure, i.e. following a request to the chief officer of the responsible police force from the person concerned, in each month from 9 March 2009 to 15 October 2009. The table covers subject profiles from English and Welsh forces and the British Transport police.

Table 1: Number of subject profiles removed from the National DNA Database by each police force from 9 March 2009 to 15 October 2009

Force	9 to 31 March	April	May	June	July	August	September	1 to 15 October
Avon and Somerset	0	3	0	2	0	0	2	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
British Transport Police	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Cumbria	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
Derbyshire	1	0	0	1	3	8	2	0
Devon and Cornwall	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Dorset	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Durham	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	4	16	4	2	2	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Kent	0	1	4	2	4	0	5	0
Lancashire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Metropolitan	5	4	13	7	4	9	10	1

Table 1: Number of subject profiles removed from the National DNA Database by each police force from 9 March 2009 to 15 October 2009

Force	*9 to 31 March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*1 to 15 October*
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
North Wales	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	1	0	0	2	5	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
South Yorkshire	0	0	3	0	8	1	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Surrey	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Thames Valley	0	1	1	4	0	1	1	1
Warwickshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1
West Midlands	0	4	0	1	2	2	5	0
West Yorkshire	3	0	1	0	3	1	1	2
Wiltshire	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13	19	36	47	50	35	43	12

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new profiles have been added to the national DNA database by each police force in each month since 8 July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [294062]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The figures in table 1 show the number of subject profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) by English and Welsh forces and the British Transport Police in each month between 9 July 2009 and 15 October 2009, broken down by the police force which took the sample.

The figures in table 2 show the number of crime scene profiles added to the NDNAD by English and Welsh forces and the British Transport Police in each month between 9 July 2009 and 15 October 2009, broken down by the police force which collected the sample.

The number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals. A proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded on more then one occasion (this may be because the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because of upgrading of profiles). It is currently estimated that 13.8 per cent. of subject profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. The replication rate of 13.8 per cent. should only be applied over the entire database however, as the replication rate for individual police forces varies considerably. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

Table 1

	Subject profiles added to the NDNAD between:			
Force	*9 July 2009 and 31 July 2009*	*1 August 2009 and 31 August 2009*	*1 September 2009 and 30 September 2009*	*1 October 2009 and 15 October 2009*
Avon and Somerset	903	933	934	464
Bedfordshire	548	638	452	274
British Transport	376	538	494	232
Cambridgeshire	338	502	400	272
Cheshire	451	793	608	266
City of London Police	108	63	147	65
Cleveland	303	547	443	224
Cumbria	270	387	510	160
Derbyshire	555	584	595	274
Devon and Cornwall	676	1,030	830	449
Dorset	385	457	432	141
Durham	355	356	326	129
Dyfed-Powys	296	187	150	104
Essex	1,068	1,134	1,448	459
Gloucestershire	373	590	544	335
Greater Manchester Police	1,797	2,048	2,022	851
Gwent	405	323	467	308
Hampshire	908	1,118	1,265	508
Hertfordshire	432	801	701	234

Table 1

Force	*Subject profiles added to the NDNAD between:* *9 July 2009 and 31 July 2009*	*1 August 2009 and 31 August 2009*	*1 September 2009 and 30 September 2009*	*1 October 2009 and 15 October 2009*
Humberside	559	687	701	373
Kent	855	1,174	1,136	548
Lancashire	1,167	1,251	978	368
Leicestershire	380	500	492	125
Lincolnshire	363	550	583	288
Merseyside	2,163	2,279	3,829	993
Metropolitan Police	5,462	6,710	5,449	3,197
Norfolk	324	392	498	120
North Wales	243	598	494	181
North Yorkshire	397	466	501	209
Northamptonshire	346	365	497	215
Northumbria	829	942	721	700
Nottinghamshire	634	498	530	239
South Wales Constabulary	632	789	793	323
South Yorkshire	870	845	881	368
Staffordshire	577	1,164	1,042	458
Suffolk	738	834	696	225
Surrey	334	503	418	200
Sussex	924	341	1,104	437
Thames Valley	1,464	1,572	1,530	623
Warwickshire Police	244	313	321	109
West Mercia	459	562	612	293
West Midlands	1,888	1,477	1,791	753
West Yorkshire	1,240	1,490	1,458	671
Wiltshire	322	507	679	197
Total	33,961	39,858	40,502	17,962

Table 2

Force	*Crime scene profiles added to the NDNAD between:* *9 July 2009 and 31 July 2009*	*1 August 2009 and 31 August 2009*	*1 September 2009 and 30 September 2009*	*1 October 2009 and 15 October 2009*
Avon and Somerset	61	66	70	36
Bedfordshire	37	29	39	19
British Transport	37	44	39	10
Cambridgeshire	62	74	63	22
Cheshire	50	60	69	35
City of London Police	6	2	4	0
Cleveland	18	21	19	5
Cumbria	24	34	28	19
Derbyshire	22	39	41	9
Devon and Cornwall	21	44	54	10
Dorset	28	30	24	12
Durham	29	28	38	15
Dyfed-Powys	13	18	12	7
Essex	75	97	81	44
Gloucestershire	20	16	22	7
Greater Manchester Police	259	308	335	133
Gwent	33	33	48	17
Hampshire	82	53	78	32
Hertfordshire	38	46	50	24
Humberside	70	81	75	34
Kent	116	108	138	51
Lancashire	116	172	171	54
Leicestershire	46	53	36	13
Lincolnshire	21	37	25	16
Merseyside	96	101	114	30
Metropolitan Police	403	547	563	198
Norfolk	41	43	64	21
North Wales	50	50	67	21
North Yorkshire	17	30	33	8

Table 2

Force	*Crime scene profiles added to the NDNAD between:* 9 July 2009 and 31 July 2009	1 August 2009 and 31 August 2009	1 September 2009 and 30 September 2009	1 October 2009 and 15 October 2009
Northamptonshire	56	52	39	34
Northumbria	96	117	88	43
Nottinghamshire	57	51	57	33
South Wales Constabulary	62	77	76	29
South Yorkshire	78	95	89	41
Staffordshire	60	79	61	25
Suffolk	37	38	27	5
Surrey	41	47	27	11
Sussex	119	136	154	33
Thames Valley	89	97	88	23
Warwickshire Police	37	29	29	16
West Mercia	51	75	64	27
West Midlands	145	166	159	75
West Yorkshire	110	137	115	49
Wiltshire	18	16	29	7
Total	2,956	3,476	3,524	1,363

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of recorded crimes were detected using DNA profiles from the National DNA Database in 2008-09. [294209]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number and proportion of recorded crimes detected in which a DNA match was available in 2008-09 is shown in table 1. It is also important to note that the detections are achieved through integrated criminal investigation, not through DNA alone. The source of the figures provided is the Forensic performance data, which is collected from police forces by the Home Office.

The figures for the number of crimes detected in which a DNA match was available only include crimes detected in which a DNA match was reported by the National DNA Database (NDNAD). They do not include DNA matches which arise through case work in serious crime, which usually involve comparing DNA profiles in a forensic laboratory, or DNA matches arising from one-off speculative searches of the NDNAD. Data on DNA matches from casework and speculative searches are not included in the police Forensic performance data.

The presentation of crimes detected with DNA as a proportion of total recorded crime undervalues the relative contribution of DNA to the crime detection rate. It should be noted that the majority of recorded crimes do not have a crime scene (for example, minor assault, drugs offences, theft, fraud etc.) and do not have a crime scene examination. In 2008-09, just under 797,000 crimes had a crime scene examination (17 percent of recorded crimes). In those crimes which have a crime scene examination, some do not yield any forensic material (DNA or fingerprints). In 2008-09, potential DNA material was collected at 99,402 crimes; and of these, 39,795 crimes yielded DNA crime scene samples of sufficient quantity and quality for profiling and loading to the NDNAD. Of the 39,795 crimes in which a crime scene sample profile was loaded, a match was generated in 36,727 crimes.

The proportion of 'crimes detected in which a DNA match was available', of those, 'crimes where potential DNA material was collected' is shown in table 2.

Table 1

2008-09	*Number/ percentage*
Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')	17,607
Additional detections arising from the DNA match[1]	14,602
Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part	32,209
Total recorded crime	4,708,872
Proportion of 'total crimes detected in which a DNA match was available or played a part' of total recorded crime (percentage)	0.68

Table 2

2008-09	*Number/ percentage*
Detected crimes in which a DNA match was available ('DNA detections')	17,607
Additional detections arising from the DNA match[1]	14,602
Total detected crimes in which a DNA match was available or played a part	32,209
Crimes where potential DNA material collected	99,402
Proportion of 'crimes detected in which a DNA match was available' of 'crimes where potential DNA material collected' (percentage)	32.40

[1] Additional detections may result from the original crime with the DNA match due to the identification of further offences through forensic linkage or through admission by the offender.

Dorset Police: Olympic Games 2012

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for each of the work streams relating to policing by Dorset Police of the events of the London 2012 Olympic Games to be held in Portland. [294372]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 20 October 2009]*: Dorset Police are fully engaged in each of the security projects that will contribute to the safety and the security of the sailing events at Weymouth and Portland.

Funding will be released from project budgets when it is required to meet agreed operational needs, about which the Home Office is in discussion with the Association of Chief Police Officers, as well as the individual affected forces. The Home Office also needs to take into account the needs of other security agencies, affordability within the total funding available, and how to secure value for money. Funding will be kept under constant review to reflect the overall Olympic security requirement, including the needs of Dorset.

Fingerprints: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people on the national fingerprint database aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 15, *(c)* 16 to 17 and *(d)* 18 or more years old had no conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the police national computer. [294184]

Alan Johnson: The national fingerprint database does not hold criminal conviction data; it stores biometric data and basic identity details which can be used to align identity with records on the Police National Computer (PNC). The PNC is an operational tool and not designed to produce the information requested. To obtain the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Forensic Science Service

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the monetary value of work carried out at each UK Forensic Science Service centre in each of the last five years; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the centres in carrying out their work. [293641]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Forensic Science Service Ltd. does not manage its revenue streams by individual sites but records its income across the company. The revenue figures from 5 December 2005, when the company was vested as a Government-owned company are:

5 December 2005 to 31 March 2007: £210,449,000

1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008: £138,001,000.

Performance by the company as a whole and at individual sites are matters for company management. The ability of the company to meet the required standards is governed by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service.

Forensic Science: Digital Technology

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process forensic evidence contained on computer disks and other digital media was in each police force area in the latest period for which figures are available. [294211]

Mr. Hanson: No information is collected centrally on the average time taken by police forces in England and Wales to process forensic evidence contained on computer disks and other digital media.

Identity and Passport Service: Absenteeism

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff absences there were in the Identity and Passport Service in each month of the last 12 years. [289518]

Mr. Woolas: The available information is given in the following tables.

IPS can only provide monthly sickness statistics for two years as we do not have cleansed and validated figures for the rest of the period. Due to elapsed time, we cannot convert the raw data into a suitable format without incurring disproportionate cost.

Figures for staff employed shown are FTE (full-time equivalents) which are the data readily available, representing permanent IPS staff. The General Register Office (GRO) became part of IPS with effect from April 2008 when it moved from the Office for National Statistics. The figures that have been supplied do not include GRO as the staff records for these staff were not migrated onto the IPS system until 1 April 2009.

Identity and passport service (IPS): Record of staff on sick leave for the latest rolling year

		HQ	*London*	*Liverpool*	*Peterborough*	*Newport*	*Glasgow*	*Belfast*	*Durham*	*ION*	*Total*
2007											
May	Staff in post (FTE)	473.80	314.10	436.44	550.75	364.93	265.98	165.93	689.70	94.24	3,355.89
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	346.62	445.33	453.94	566.75	427.81	437.88	136.09	620.60	—	3,435.01
	Average sick leave per person[2]	0.73	1.42	1.04	1.03	1.17	1.65	0.82	0.90	—	1.02
June	Staff in post (FTE)	481.48	319.34	438.40	548.97	361.49	263.36	166.13	678.71	163.89	3,422.77
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	309.83	391.47	451.88	536.68	465.88	373.43	153.49	620.30	1.00	3,303.96
	Average sick leave per person[2]	0.64	1.23	1.03	0.98	1.29	1.42	0.92	0.91	0.01	0.97
July	Staff in post (FTE)	492.60	318.48	436.35	565.18	337.88	261.01	166.93	671.73	228.05	3,478.21
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	359.75	440.66	478.93	623.78	430.37	350.72	144.35	592.61	76.15	3,499.32
	Average sick leave per person[2]	0.73	1.38	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.34	0.86	0.88	0.33	1.01
August	Staff in post (FTE)	504.11	316.01	426.29	538.47	356.56	260.85	165.78	668.64	283.38	3,518.10

Identity and passport service (IPS): Record of staff on sick leave for the latest rolling year

		H.Q	*London*	*Liverpool*	*Peterborough*	*Newport*	*Glasgow*	*Belfast*	*Durham*	*ION*	*Total*
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	342.76	445.01	526.06	557.12	518.77	315.40	147.82	675.81	89.14	3,617.89
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.68	1.42	1.23	1.03	1.45	1.21	0.89	1.01	0.31	1.03
September	Staff in post (FTE)	526.70	311.36	430.96	534.16	352.84	250.29	164.84	661.76	327.76	3,560.67
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	235.16	311.64	400.36	426.49	386.62	247.17	177.03	580.02	85.89	2,850.38
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.45	1.00	0.93	0.80	1.10	0.99	1.07	0.88	0.26	0.80
October	Staff in post (FTE)	552.77	287.92	409.57	523.16	338.78	240.79	157.76	646.19	396.00	3,552.93
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	337.23	412.99	456.35	571.92	487.01	279.48	239.74	697.76	130.22	3,612.70
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.61	1.43	1.11	1.09	1.44	1.16	1.52	1.08	0.33	1.02
November	Staff in post (FTE)	558.77	288.67	411.42	520.16	337.30	244.79	159.76	643.41	425.31	3,589.59
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	376.34	432.14	532.15	534.80	368.23	338.08	217.26	680.13	140.99	3,620.12
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.67	1.50	1.29	1.03	1.09	1.38	1.36	1.06	0.33	1.01
December	Staff in post (FTE)	563.37	295.37	408.96	505.11	339.58	239.79	158.96	646.41	432.75	3,590.30
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	394.16	291.61	466.73	464.51	297.89	318.09	126.99	687.24	264.70	3,311.92
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.70	0.99	1.14	0.92	0.88	1.33	0.80	1.06	0.61	0.92
2008											
January	Staff in post (FTE)	584.51	290.74	418.97	520.16	334.69	237.97	161.87	634.10	453.25	3,636.26
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	386.78	350.89	506.71	481.52	505.83	285.88	167.51	836.83	334.55	3,856.50
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.66	1.21	1.21	0.93	1.51	1.20	1.03	1.32	0.74	1.06
February	Staff in post (FTE)	589.82	281.49	410.06	513.17	334.41	236.02	161.33	626.20	454.40	3,606.90
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	363.11	339.38	462.04	477.04	363.80	251.73	227.96	581.31	293.97	3,360.33
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.62	1.21	1.13	0.93	1.09	1.07	1.41	0.93	0.65	0.93
March	Staff in post (FTE)	598.46	285.83	406.03	512.48	322.88	229.32	161.26	625.79	468.69	3,610.74
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	296.82	317.40	444.07	335.00	300.76	234.08	195.32	578.34	347.01	3,048.80
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.50	1.11	1.09	0.65	0.93	1.02	1.21	0.92	0.74	0.84
April	Staff in post (FTE)	637.10	282.63	406.54	506.48	320.58	217.34	160.26	624.58	475.45	3,630.96
	Sick leave staff days (FTE)	419.35	405.68	515.75	458.00	299.42	224.58	123.56	690.29	446.06	3,582.69
	Average sick leave per person[1]	0.66	1.44	1.27	0.90	0.93	1.03	0.77	1.11	0.94	0.99
12 month	Staff divided by 12 months	546.96	299.16	420.08	526.52	343.40	245.63	162.57	651.43	350.26	3,546.11
	Total sick leave staff days	4,167.90	4,584.19	5,694.97	6,035.61	4,852.39	3,656.52	2,057.12	7,841.24	2,209.69	41,099.63
	Average sick leave per person[1]	7.62	15.32	13.56	11.46	14.13	[illegible]	12.65	12.04	6.31	11.59

[1] Totals show sick leave staff days divided by staff in post

Identity and passport service (IPS): Record of staff on sick absence for the latest rolling year

		H.Q	*London*	*Liverpool*	*Peterborough*	*Newport*	*Glasgow*	*Belfast*	*Durham*	*ION*	*Total*
2008											
April	Staff in post (FTE)	637.10	282.63	406.54	506.48	320.58	217.34	160.26	624.58	475.45	3,630.96
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	419.35	405.68	515.75	458.00	299.42	224.58	123.56	690.29	446.06	3,582.69

Identity and passport service (IPS): Record of staff on sick absence for the latest rolling year

		H.Q.	*London*	*Liverpool*	*Peterborough*	*Newport*	*Glasgow*	*Belfast*	*Durham*	*ION*	*Total*
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.66	1.44	1.27	0.90	0.93	1.03	0.77	1.11	0.94	0.99
May	Staff in post (FTE)	630.39	278.86	404.99	502.84	319.48	212.74	160.43	620.77	474.84	3,605.34
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	426.10	339.83	383.10	585.55	306.42	250.28	111.90	630.83	363.21	3,397.22
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.68	1.22	0.95	1.16	0.96	1.18	0.70	1.02	0.76	0.94
June	Staff in post (FTE)	650.28	293.18	405.58	500.89	320.39	213.20	162.67	619.53	472.21	3,637.92
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	389.87	356.73	359.11	569.68	376.38	198.61	168.72	584.51	234.32	3,237.93
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.60	1.22	0.89	1.14	1.17	0.93	1.04	0.94	0.50	0.89
July	Staff in post (FTE)	653.20	299.44	412.90	497.89	325.80	211.66	162.67	620.50	497.41	3,681.47
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	515.70	406.30	410.72	541.86	420.15	239.64	125.92	655.41	302.01	3,617.71
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.79	1.36	0.99	1.09	1.29	1.13	0.77	1.06	0.61	0.98
August	Staff in post (FTE)	658.06	298.37	411.69	500.64	320.79	207.91	163.67	616.73	477.40	3,655.26
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	352.86	421.09	352.52	484.38	313.12	227.42	68.70	589.54	328.49	3,138.12
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.54	1.41	0.86	0.97	0.98	1.09	0.42	0.96	0.69	0.86
September	Staff in post (FTE)	674.41	294.33	406.12	496.28	322.10	201.97	164.91	607.36	475.17	3,642.65
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	446.92	358.26	304.91	557.27	279.53	268.29	64.47	623.65	333.56	3,236.86
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.66	1.22	0.75	1.12	0.87	1.33	0.39	1.03	0.70	0.89
October	Staff in post (FTE)	698.62	268.33	401.22	493.08	320.79	184.58	164.91	599.24	464.58	3,595.35
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	573.86	257.16	393.84	519.75	368.34	326.31	100.50	581.41	338.29	3,459.46
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.82	0.96	0.98	1.05	1.15	1.77	0.61	0.97	0.73	0.96
November	Staff in post (FTE)	724.69	258.19	396.98	492.73	320.16	165.92	164.86	591.56	461.07	3,576.17
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	609.01	220.60	392.10	375.31	324.37	307.33	119.58	520.68	271.33	3,140.31
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.84	0.85	0.99	0.76	1.01	1.85	0.73	0.88	0.59	0.88
December	Staff in post (FTE)	717.69	259.90	392.98	488.39	321.49	152.42	164.86	596.30	460.19	3,554.22
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	754.57	168.22	420.42	529.24	311.02	253.74	136.68	653.14	320.49	3,547.52
	Average sick absence per person[1]	1.05	0.65	1.07	1.08	0.97	1.66	0.83	1.10	0.70	1.00
2009											
January	Staff in post (FTE)	705.52	262.00	390.98	488.66	316.33	143.89	164.09	607.96	458.57	3,538.00
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	321.82	146.37	289.92	507.24	299.17	209.53	96.64	615.12	319.98	2,805.79
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.46	0.56	0.74	1.04	0.95	1.46	0.59	1.01	0.70	0.79
February	Staff in post (FTE)	707.99	256.75	386.22	483.00	315.79	110.54	163.14	604.74	456.82	3,484.99
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	220.38	138.08	300.35	398.75	236.21	140.33	75.61	489.57	201.82	2,221.10
	Average sick absence per person[1]	0.31	0.54	0.78	0.83	0.81	1.27	0.46	0.81	0.44	0.64
March	Staff in post (FTE)	781.58	256.75	389.57	461.63	316.14	104.20	149.45	589.76	454.60	3,503.68
	Sick absence staff days (FTE)	356.65	168.10	295.84	377.47	308.96	68.50	93.65	439.07	275.10	2,383.33

Identity and passport service (IPS): Record of staff on sick absence for the latest rolling year

	HQ	*London*	*Liverpool*	*Peterborough*	*Newport*	*Glasgow*	*Belfast*	*Durham*	*ION*	*Total*
Average sick absence per person[1]	0.46	0.65	0.76	0.82	0.98	0.66	0.63	0.74	0.61	0.68
Staff divided by 12 months	686.63	275.73	400.48	492.71	319.99	177.20	162.16	608.25	469.03	3,592.17
Total sick absence staff days	5,387.08	3,386.42	4,418.57	5,904.50	3,863.09	2,714.57	1,285.93	7,073.22	3,734.65	37,768.03
Average sick absence per person[1]	7.85	12.28	11.03	11.98	12.07	15.32	7.93	11.63	7.96	10.5
Annual target (days)	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50
Annual variance (days)	2.7	-1.8	-0.5	-1.5	-1.6	-4.8	2.6	-1.1	2.5	-0.0
Annual percentage variance	[2]25	[3]-17	[3]-5	[3]-14	[3]-15	[3]-46	[2]24	[3]-11	[2]24	[2]0

[1] Totals show sick absence staff days divided by staff in post

[2] Within YTD target

[3] Outside YTD target

Note:

IPS currently reports on staff by:

Regional passport office locations (Liverpool, Peterborough, Glasgow, Belfast, London, Durham, Newport)

Interview office network (ION)—as sites are so small, all offices are grouped together in one single report

Headquarters (HQ)—this will included headquarters staff who are located outside London

General Register's Office for England and Wales (GRO)

Immigration: Children

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained for immigration purposes for *(a)* less than one week, *(b)* between one week and one month, *(c)* between one month and six months, *(d)* between six months and one year and *(e)* more than one year in each of the last five years. [289401]

Alan Johnson: The information is not held centrally recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. The information is published in Tables 9-11 of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom bulletins which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Offences Against Children: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to require internet service providers to block access to foreign websites identified as containing images of child abuse. [294210]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are very clear that the use of blocking to prevent access to these images is something that internet service providers should do, and are pleased with the support from providers, which has led to 98.6 per cent. of UK consumer broadband lines being covered by blocking of sites identified by the Internet Watch Foundation as containing such illegal images. The Government recognise the work of the internet industry in reaching this figure.

It remains our hope that the target of 100 per cent. of consumer-facing ISPs operating a blocking list will be achieved on a voluntary basis and we keep progress on the 100 per cent. target under review.

The IWF publishes a list of companies that take the list. It has plans for a self-certification system so that the public will be able to identify which companies are operating an effective blocking policy.

Police: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community safety officers there were in Enfield North constituency in each year since 1997. [294190]

Mr. Hanson: Police personnel statistics are not collected by parliamentary constituency. Enfield is a basic command unit (BCU) within the Metropolitan police. Police personnel statistics were not collected at BCU level until 2002-03.

Data by police force area, with some breakdown by basic command unit (BCU) are National Statistics and are published annually in the Police Service Strength Statistical Bulletin, available on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website and the House of Commons Library. The relevant weblinks for the current year's data and a table for the previous years' data for the BCU of Enfield are provided for my right hon. Friend's convenience.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1309.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0808add_tab.xls

Police officer strength (FTE)[1] and police community support officer strength (FTE)[1] for the basic command unit of Enfield[2]

	Officers	*PCSOs*
2003	490	—
2004	538	—
2005	575	—
2006	560	—

Police officer strength (FTE)[1] and police community support officer strength (FTE)[1] for the basic command unit of Enfield[2]

	Officers	PCSOs
2007[3]	582	119
2008	546	134

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number, due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[2] Figures as at 31 March in each of the given years.

[3] 2006-07 is the first year that that police community support officer strength by basic command unit has been collected centrally.

Police: Injuries

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have adopted the procedure on reviews of injury awards set out in Annex C to Home Office Circular 46/2004. [294160]

Alan Johnson: The information is not held centrally. It is for individual police authorities to decide whether to adopt Home Office guidance in relation to carrying out their statutory duties under the Police Injury Benefit Regulations.

Police: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers in each year since 1997 and *(b)* police community support officers in each year since 2002 (i) were dismissed and (ii) resigned in Leeds North West constituency. [294295]

Mr. Hanson: Data on dismissals and resignations are not collected centrally at constituency level.

Police: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in each police force in England and Wales on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [294012]

Mr. Hanson: The requested data are National Statistics and are published annually in the Police Service Strength Statistical Bulletin, available on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website and the House of Commons Library. The relevant weblink and tables are provided for the member's convenience.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1309.pdf

Table 1: Police officer strength in England and Wales by police force area on 31 March 2009

Police force	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	3,355
Bedfordshire	1,244
Cambridgeshire	1,450
Cheshire	2,180
Cleveland	1,756
Cumbria	1,284
Derbyshire	2,137
Devon and Cornwall	3,556
Dorset	1,512
Durham	1,588
Essex	3,484
Gloucestershire	1,372
Greater Manchester	8,232
Hampshire	3,811
Hertfordshire	2,172
Humberside	2,110
Kent	3,799
Lancashire	3,753
Leicestershire	2,363
Lincolnshire	1,229
London, City of	818
Merseyside	4,494
Metropolitan Police	32,610
Norfolk	1,668
Northamptonshire	1,326
Northumbria	4,111
North Yorkshire	1,460
Nottinghamshire	2,408
South Yorkshire	3,053
Staffordshire	2,211
Suffolk	1,291
Surrey	1,872
Sussex	3,196
Thames Valley	4,317
Warwickshire	994
West Mercia	2,471
West Midlands	8,637
West Yorkshire	5,854
Wiltshire	1,229
Dyfed-Powys	1,197
Gwent	1,438
North Wales	1,586
South Wales	3,146
Total 43 forces	143,770

This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Table 2: PCSO strength as at 31 March 2009, by police force area, England and Wales

Police force	*Total strength*[1]
Avon and Somerset	381
Bedfordshire	122
Cambridgeshire	196
Cheshire	234
Cleveland	198
Cumbria	107
Derbyshire	205
Devon and Cornwall	362
Dorset	156
Durham	171
Essex	446
Gloucestershire	161
Greater Manchester	782
Hampshire	325
Hertfordshire	256
Humberside	321
Kent	390
Lancashire	437

Table 2: PCSO strength as at 31 March 2009, by police force area, England and Wales

Police force	*Total strength*[1]
Leicestershire	228
Lincolnshire	153
London, City of	48
Merseyside	442
Metropolitan Police	4,594
Norfolk	277
Northamptonshire	168
Northumbria	259
North Yorkshire	173
Nottinghamshire	243
South Yorkshire	328
Staffordshire	236
Suffolk	160
Surrey	206
Sussex	399
Thames Valley	517
Warwickshire	143
West Mercia	272
West Midlands	812
West Yorkshire	761
Wiltshire	135
Dyfed-Powys	82
Gwent	139
North Wales	159
South Wales	325
Total of 43 forces	16,507

[1] Total strength given as full-time equivalents. This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Public Telecommunications Systems

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Metropolitan Police, the National Police Improvement Agency and the Olympic Security Directorate have met to discuss *(a)* integration of their secure network requirements and *(b)* the potential for efficiency savings through integration. [290241]

Alan Johnson: The additional Airwave requirements for the Olympics have been identified for all emergency services across the UK. These form the basis for the contractual negotiations with Airwave Solutions Limited (ASL).

The negotiations with the emergency services ensure the system remains fully interoperable and that any potential savings for negotiating on a combined basis are achieved.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether he has received reports of any delay in the implementation of the London Secure Communications Network; [290297]

(2) what assessment he has made of progress on the schedule for roll-out of the London Secure Communications Network before the 2012 Olympics. [290298]

Alan Johnson: The enhancements to the Airwave Radio System required for the 2012 Olympics are currently on schedule

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the London Secure Communications Network will be implemented. [290459]

Alan Johnson: The implementation of the Olympic enhancements for the Airwave radio system is currently progressing against schedule, so that it is ready for the 2012 games.

Stop and Search

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 15 and *(c)* 16 to 17 years old have been subject to police stop and search procedures in each police force area in each of the last five years; [294218]

(2) how many people aged *(a)* over 80, *(b)* 71 to 80 and *(c)* 60 to 70 years old have been subject to police stop and search procedures in each police force area in each of the last five years. [294219]

Alan Johnson: Information on stops and searches that the law requires to be reported to the Home Office does not include information on the age of persons searched.

UK Border Agency: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff in the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years. [281629]

Mr. Woolas: Please see the following tables for a breakdown of bonuses paid to UK Border Agency staff, including front-line officers, within the last five financial years.

I also refer the hon. Gentlemen to the previous answer provided on 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 78-80W, which shows that the size of the UK Border Agency staff ranges between 15,370 and 18,838 during these years. At the same time we have also integrated the functions of the Border and Immigration Agency, UK Visas and HMRC functions at the border and now have a presence in 135 countries around the world.

The level of bonuses paid to staff in 2008-09 represents less than 0.23 per cent. of the Agency's net out-turn (budget minus income). Bonuses are only given to those who have performed to a high standard and have delivered the Agency's public commitments.

Financial year 2004-05

Civil service grade (and equivalent)	*Total amount by grade (£)*
Administrative assistant (and equivalent)	35,651.43
Administrative officer (and equivalent)	147,767.80
Executive officer (and equivalent)	717,792.59
Higher executive officer (and equivalent)	463,624.29

Financial year 2004-05

Civil service grade (and equivalent)	*Total amount by grade (£)*
Senior executive officer (and equivalent)	347,119.91
Grade 7	191,648.15
Grade 6	83,213.00
Senior civil service	29,954.00
Grand total	2,016,771.17

Financial year 2005-06

Civil service grade (and equivalent)	*Total amount by grade (£)*
Administrative assistant (and equivalent)	88,988.16
Administrative officer (and equivalent)	271,638.77
Executive officer (and equivalent)	1,157,190.18
Higher executive officer (and equivalent)	688,560.92
Senior executive officer (and equivalent)	482,884.07
Grade 7	257,919.28
Grade 6	123,956.00
Senior civil service	40,474.00
Grand total	3,111,611.38

Financial year 2006-07

Civil service grade (and equivalent)	*Total amount by grade (£)*
Administrative assistant (and equivalent)	119,325.46
Administrative officer (and equivalent)	352,503.81
Executive officer (and equivalent)	1,385,240.37
Higher executive officer (and equivalent)	801,067.68
Senior executive officer (and equivalent)	513,648.95
Grade 7	274,715.86
Grade 6	170,090.32
Senior civil service	61,939.86
Grand total	3,678,532.31

Financial year 2007-08

Civil service grade (and equivalent)	*Total amount by grade (£)*
Administrative assistant (and equivalent)	88,370.88
Administrative officer (and equivalent)	292,742.55
Executive officer (and equivalent)	909,644.96
Higher executive officer (and equivalent)	553,174.23
Senior executive officer (and equivalent)	478,373.77
Grade 7	265,220.03
Grade 6	179,649.74
Senior civil service	295,992.68
Grand total	3,063,168.84

Financial year 2008-09

Civil service grade (and equivalent)	*Total amount by grade (£)*
Administrative assistant (and equivalent)	96,893.16
Administrative officer (and equivalent)	366,301.71
Executive officer (and equivalent)	1,098,218.29
Higher executive officer (and equivalent)	626,261.21
Senior executive officer (and equivalent)	456,418.16
Grade 7	287,680.19
Grade 6	154,825.77
Senior civil service	343,605.08
Grand total	3,430,203.57

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Sponsorship

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for which academies an element of the committed sponsorship has been paid in kind; [293663]

(2) what audit mechanism is used to assess the monetary value of sponsorship provided in kind for academies; [293664]

(3) which academies have received their pledged sponsorship in full in cash. [293665]

Mr. Coaker: The following table identifies academies where sponsorship is a contribution to capital costs and the Department has evidence of receipt that the contribution has been paid in full. There may be cases where further sponsorship payments have already been received by the Academy Trust but not yet reported to the Department.

Traditionally procurement academies where sponsorship has been received in full

Lambeth	West London (Ealing)
Sheffield Springs	John Madejski (Reading)
Sheffield Park	The Bridge (Hackney)
The King's (Middlesbrough)	Petchey (Hackney)
Trinity - Doncaster	North Liverpool
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham	St Matthew (Lewisham)
Haberdashers' Knights	Langley (Slough)
Marlowe (Kent)	Leigh Technology (Kent)
Walsall	Merchants' Withywood
Grace Solihull	Excelsior (Newcastle)
Burlington Danes	Corby Business
King Solomon Academy Westminster	Landau Forte College (Derby)
City of London Southwark	City of London (Islington COLA -1)
Bexley Business	Folkestone
City Academy Hackney (COLA - H)	North Oxfordshire
Wren (Barnet)	—

The only "Endowment Sponsorship" Academy where sponsorship is in the form of contributions to an endowment fund, and has been reported to the Department as having been received in full is the Marsh Academy

(Kent). As with the first category, there may be cases where further sponsorship has already been received by the Academy Trust but not yet reported to the Department.

Sponsorship in kind is additional to formal sponsorship requirements, the Department does not therefore keep records of it.

In-kind sponsorship received by academies is recorded in their annual financial statements which are subject to external audit. The external auditor will certify, among other things, whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the academy's incoming resources.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childcare settings have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted exemption from parts of the early years foundation stage. [294068]

Dawn Primarolo: As of 15 October 2009, 18 Steiner Waldorf settings and one registered childminder have applied for exemptions from and/or modifications of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Of those that have completed the exemptions application process, six Steiner Waldorf settings have been granted exemptions and/or modifications from certain parts of the EYFS Learning and Development requirements.

Children's Centres: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new Sure Start centres his Department plans to open in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* West Yorkshire in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [293948]

Dawn Primarolo: The West Yorkshire area (which covers Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield) currently has 153 Sure Start Children's Centres offering services to approximately 127,000 children, with a further 20 planned to be delivered by March 2010 in order to provide universal coverage of children's centre services for children under five and their families. Of the 153 centres, 51 are in Leeds with a further eight centres planned. Leeds West constituency has seven centres, there are no further centres planned for this constituency.

Class Sizes: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil to teacher ratio in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Leeds West constituency was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293947]

Mr. Coaker: The following table provides the within school pupil:teacher ratios in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Leeds West constituency in January 2009.

Pupil:teacher ratios[1] in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools[2], January 2009

Coverage: Leeds West constituency

	Number
Primary	21.7
Secondary	16.4

[1] The within school PTR is calculated by dividing the total FTE number of pupils on roll in schools by the total FTE number of qualified teachers regularly employed in schools.

[2] Excludes academies and city technology colleges.

Note:

For statistical purposes only, pupils who do not attend both morning and afternoon at least five days a week are regarded as part-time. Each part-time pupil is treated as 0.5 FTE.

Source:

School Census

Departmental Public Expenditure

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which line items in table 8.4 of his Department's annual report for 2009, indents the funding allocation for *(a)* extended schools—sustainability and *(b)* extended schools-subsidy elements of the Standards Fund 2010-11 Allocations spreadsheet published on the Teachernet website. [292053]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The funding allocation for extended schools is included in the Departmental Annual Report 2009, Table 8.4, within the line Schools, Other Standards Funds.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects his Department to spend on supporting its national strategies in each of the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [293412]

Mr. Coaker: In the current year we have committed £390 million to National Strategies programmes. This includes the development and delivery of free resources to schools through the National Strategies contract as well as support to local authorities and schools to enable them to access the strategies' training and intervention programmes.

Expenditure for 2010-11 has yet to be determined and will depend upon the priorities set in the National Strategies Annual Plan which we hope to agree in December. We have already announced that the National Strategies contract will not be renewed when it comes to an end in March 2011. Instead, we will be placing resources directly into the hands of schools, giving them greater freedom to determine their improvement needs and to secure the most appropriate support.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been allocated to the Youth of Today programme in each of the next five years, and under which budgetary headings such expenditure falls. [293644]

Mr. Coaker: The allocation for The Youth of Today programme is 3,416,000 in FY 2009-10 and £2,671,000 in FY 2010-11.

These costs are to deliver a fellowship programme; ministerial shadowing scheme; a local shadowing scheme; a young leader's campaign; stimulate the youth leadership sector and create a leadership progression framework; deliver a £1 million grant opportunity scheme; promote leadership in education; connect international best practice and provide youth led support and challenge to government and public services.

European Schools: Finance

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to the public purse was of payments to European Schools in respect of *(a)* teachers' salaries and *(b)* other support in the last year for which figures are available. [294031]

Mr. Coaker: In the 2008-09 financial year the cost was *(a)* circa £8,901,000 for teachers' salaries and *(b)* circa £943,000 for other support.

Family Proceedings

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children involved in Children Act proceedings in each court area are awaiting the appointment of a guardian ad litem; and what the average waiting time in each such area was in the latest period for which figures are available. [289487]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Court circuit	*Cases awaiting allocation (at 15 September)*	*Total children*	*Average waiting time for cases received April to August 2009 (working days)*
London	174	272	27.2
Midlands	34	59	12.2
North East	230	364	4.9
North West	296	513	21.4
South East	65	110	12.9
South West	117	180	9.2
Total	916	1,498	13.4

There are 916 cases awaiting allocation which represents 6.9 per cent. of Cafcass' total open public law workload. All of these cases have been reviewed, prioritised and screened for risk and this is a continuous process until substantive allocation takes place. This Department has asked Cafcass to take urgent action to tackle the unallocated cases and has made available additional resources of up to £1.6 million in this financial year to do so.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in *(a)* independent and *(b)* comprehensive schools achieved five or more A* grades at GCSE in the last year for which figures are available; [293606]

(2) how many students in academies achieved five or more A* grades at GCSE in the last year for which figures are available. [293609]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 October 2009]:* Provisional data for 2008/09 show that:

8,558 pupils (18.3 per cent.) at the end of Key Stage 4 in independent schools achieved five or more A* grades at GCSE.

12,663 pupils (2.4 per cent.) at the end of Key Stage 4 in comprehensive schools achieved five or more A* grades at GCSE.

178 pupils (0.9 per cent.) at the end of Key Stage 4 in academies achieved five or more A* grades at GCSE.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which 10 non-core curriculum subjects the number of GCSE entries was highest in each *(a)* comprehensive, *(b)* selective and *(c)* partially-selective local authority area in 2009. [294642]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which 10 non-core curriculum subjects the number of GCSE entries was highest in *(a)* maintained comprehensives, *(b)* maintained selective, *(c)* maintained secondary modern and *(d)* independent schools in 2009. [294643]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The information requested is given in the following table:

Most popular non-core subjects by school type, 2009

Rank	*Maintained comprehensive*	*Entries*	*Maintained selective*	*Entries*	*Maintained secondary modern*	*Entries*	*Independent schools*	*Entries*
1	English Literature	404,854	English Literature	21,497	English Literature	17,962	English Literature	36,755
2	History	155,557	History	11,918	Art and Design	7,216	French	26,744
3	Religious Studies	139,184	French	11,736	History	6,491	History	23,263
4	Art and Design	138,582	Geography	10,726	Geography	5,997	Geography	21,628
5	Geography	132,079	Religious Studies	8,438	Statistics	5,541	Art and Design	14,906
6	French	123,819	German	7,583	Physical Education	5,441	Religious Studies	13,632
7	Physical Education	117,584	Art and Design	6,426	Religious Studies	5,260	Spanish	11,249

Most popular non-core subjects by school type, 2009

Rank	*Maintained comprehensive*	*Entries*	*Maintained selective*	*Entries*	*Maintained secondary modern*	*Entries*	*Independent schools*	*Entries*
8	Drama	71,807	Spanish	4,885	French	4,588	Classical Studies	8,596
9	Business Studies	62,595	Business Studies	4,832	Media/Film/TV	3,227	Drama	7,937
10	Statistics	61,040	Physical Education	4,738	D and T: Resistant Materials	3,193	German	7,239

Notes:
1. These figures have been derived from the Achievement and Attainment data and cover pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2009.
2. Data for 2009 are provisional and subject to change after school checking.

Gifted Children: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the gifted and talented programme in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [293398]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department spent £17.5 million on the gifted and talented programme in the financial year 2008-09.

History: GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in receipt of free school meals in *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* all schools achieved a grade A* in history GCSE in 2008; [286391]

(2) how many pupils in receipt of free school meals in *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* all schools achieved a grade A in history A level in 2008. [286392]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 13 July 2009]:* Of those pupils at the end of key stage 4 who were eligible to receive free school meals in maintained schools in England, 354 achieved a grade A* in GCSE History in 2008.

52 pupils aged 16-18 (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August 2007) who were eligible for free school meals in maintained schools, achieved a grade A in GCE History A level in 2008.

The figures relate to pupils in maintained schools only. Information collected regarding free school meals forms part of the School Census which is only carried out in maintained schools. The free school meal information that is linked to attainment is for those eligible for free meals rather than those in receipt of.

Nurseries: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery nurses per head of population there were in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* the City of Leeds and *(c)* West Yorkshire in each year since 2005. [293941]

Dawn Primarolo: These data are not available. However, national data on the numbers and characteristics of staff in the child care and early years workforce is collected through the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. The latest survey to be published in the series is for 2008 and was published at the end of September 2009. This can be found at the following website address:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14590&type=5&resultspage=1

Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Key Stage 1 classes there were in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [293407]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the table.

Maintained primary schools: Key Stage 1 classes[1, 2] Years: Position in January each year: 2001-09 (final) Coverage: England

Key Stage 1 classes[3]	*Total number of classes*
2001	62,480
2002	61,600
2003	57,240
2004	56,590
2005	55,860
2006	54,390
2007	53,350
2008	53,160
2009	53,500

[1] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] Includes reception classes.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Primary Education: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local authorities have applied for safety valve funding to meet increased demand for primary school places; how much has been allocated in each case; what steps he is taking to review the criteria used to make such allocations; and if he will make a statement. [293098]

Mr. Coaker: We are currently appraising the 51 applications we have received for the £200 million of capital funding we have secured as an interim measure to support authorities which forecast exceptional growth in demand for primary school places by 2011. In considering these applications, we have had discussions with a range of local authorities and with representative bodies including London councils and the Local Government Association, to consider the criteria we have used. Our aim is to ensure that this funding is fairly allocated to those authorities with the highest need, where funding the additional places from other resources would unduly impact on other priorities. We aim shortly to announce allocations. We are also, in the context of the next spending review, working on how to ensure that in the longer term there are high quality permanent pupil places where they are wanted.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the per pupil funding for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children in Leeds West constituency was in each of the last five years. [294015]

Mr. Coaker: The Department allocates education funding to local authorities so the requested information for Leeds West constituency is not available. The per pupil revenue funding figures for primary and secondary school pupils for Leeds local authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£)—EFS plus grants

	2004-05		*2005-06*	
	Primary (aged 3-10)	*Secondary(aged 11-15)*	*Primary(aged 3-10)*	*Secondary(aged 11-15)*
Leeds local authority	3,790	4,870	4,020	5,100

Notes:
1. Price base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 June 2009 2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of education formula spending (EFS) settlements and include the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three-15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the EFS settlement calculations.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the new Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 2004-05 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG, which has been in place since 2006-07 is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover

LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 (baseline) to 2008-09 for Leeds local authority are provided in the table below. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. The figures as follows are for all funded pupils aged three-19 and are in real terms:

Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£)—DSG plus grants pupils aged three-19

	2005-06 (Baseline)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Leeds local authority	4,290	4,390	4,540	4,620

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the dedicated schools grant, school standards grant, school standards grant (personalisation) and standards fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 June 2009.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three-19.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal. Figures are not yet available for 2009-10

Reading

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards the Government's target to extend the reading recovery scheme to 30,000 children by 2011; and how many children are currently taking part. [294007]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Reading Recovery is a one-to-one intervention that sits within the wider Every Child a Reader (ECaR) programme. ECaR delivers a layered approach to support children at KS1 who are not reaching age-related expectations in reading. The target is to extend the ECaR programme to reach 30,000 children by 2011, and we are currently on track to meet this. Currently 19,308 children are taking part in the ECaR programme, with 12,954 of those receiving one-[illegible]ne support through Reading Recovery.

School Improvement and Targets Unit: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the annual cost of the School Improvement and Targets Unit was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293400]

Mr. Coaker: The annual staffing cost of the School Improvement and Targets Unit in the 2007/08 financial year was £2,183,340. This was the last year that the unit was in existence as there was a reorganisation of departmental policy teams in 2008.

The unit was responsible for the New Relationship with Schools programme, schools causing concern, local authority and school target setting, the Achievement and Attainment Tables, RAISEonline and pupil assessment.

Schools: Alcoholic Drinks

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many incidents of alcohol abuse on school grounds involving minors were reported in *(a)* England, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Castle Point constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [292669]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not available.

The Department collects information on the reasons why pupils have been excluded, either for a fixed period or permanently. This includes the category for "drug and alcohol related". This data is available for England and Essex in SFR 18/2009 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2007/08' which can be accessed at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml

Schools: Asbestos

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 234W, on schools: asbestos, when he expects the evaluation of responses to the questionnaire about the management of asbestos in system-built schools to be completed. [294157]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Initial evaluation of the responses is complete. It has highlighted the need for further investigation and follow-up action. Health and Safety Executive (HSE) officials will discuss with my Department in November how to take this forward.

The response rate from Diocese and voluntary aided schools was low. With HSE we are now considering how to get information on asbestos from the voluntary aided sector.

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of new *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were fitted with sprinklers in each year since 2005. [293379]

Mr. Coaker: It is our policy, introduced in 2007 and set out in published guidance, that all new schools should have sprinklers installed, except those assessed to be at low risk of an arson attack. It is for local authorities and other promoters of schools to carry out risk assessments, and ensure that sprinklers are installed where deemed necessary. All schools should have adequate fire precautions in place to safeguard life in the event of a fire. Sprinklers are the only fire suppression systems used in schools.

50 of the 70 (71 per cent.) secondary schools newly built under the Building Schools for the Future programme included sprinklers. The table gives these figures for each year.

	Number of new BSF secondary schools	*Number with sprinklers*	*Proportion with sprinklers (percentage)*
April 2009-present	28	20	71
April 2008 to March 2009	34	30	88
April 2007 to March 2008	5	3	60
April 2006 to March 2007	3	2	66

Of the 74 academies completed, six (8 per cent.) have sprinkler systems installed. 15 of the 19 (79 per cent.) new academy secondary school buildings planned under new funding arrangements will include sprinklers.

We do not collect data on the number of new primary schools which are fitted with sprinklers. We started to collect this data for new secondary schools in April 2009 following my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud's (Mr. Drew) parliamentary question answered on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 168W.

Schools: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 442W, on schools: standards, for what reasons comparable information for each year since 1997 is not available; and for which years comparable information is available. [294148]

Mr. Coaker: The information provided in the answer of 2 June 2009 was based on a review of the department's field forces, providing support and challenge to LAs, conducted in autumn 2008. Comparable information is not available for other years since this was a one-off exercise and no equivalent exercise had been conducted in previous years. Information about the numbers and costs of all field forces has not been routinely recorded centrally for each year since 1997. To collect this information retrospectively would exceed the cost threshold of £750 applicable to central Government.

Specialist School and Academies Trust: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the income of the Specialist School and Academies Trust *(a)* was in each year from 1999 to 2000 to 2007-08 and *(b)* is planned to be in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11, from (i) central Government grants, (ii) subscriptions from schools, (iii) private sector donations and (iv) other income; and if he will make a statement. [293410]

Mr. Coaker: The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) is an independent registered charity which receives income from a range of sources. As such, DCSF does not have responsibility for monitoring its income. Audited accounts are published and available from the Charity Commission.

The DCSF funds SSAT through a range of grants and contracts to support the Specialist Schools and Academies Programmes and a range of other activities designed to raise pupil achievement. The total financial contributions made by DCSF and its predecessors to SSAT over the last eight years for which we have final information are: £2.395 million in 2001-02; £4.371 million in 2002-03; £11.326 million in 2003-04; £17.796 million in 2004-05; £24.350 million in 2005-06; £35.152 million in 2006-07, £43.578 million in 2007-08 and £29.700 million in 2008-09.

This includes both grants and contracts. DCSF negotiates funding levels each year for individual grants and contracts. We are not in a position to estimate what the level of funding will be in future years—this will depend on our priorities at the time.

Teachers: Resignations

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many teachers left the profession within five years of entering it in the latest period for which figures are available; [288352]

(2) how many teachers *(a)* in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools and *(b)* of (A) English, (B) mathematics, (C) history and (D) science left the profession within five years of entering it in the latest period for which figures are available; [288353]

(3) how many teachers who entered the profession in the maintained comprehensive sector in 2003 were still teaching in the sector in 2008; [288354]

(4) how many teachers who entered the profession in the maintained sector in 2003 teaching *(a)* in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools and (A) English, (B) mathematics, (C) history and (D) science were still teaching in the sector in 2008. [288355]

Mr. Coaker: The data are not available in the exact formats requested. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of subjects taught by those teachers entering/leaving the profession. It is not possible to separate out comprehensive schools from the secondary school sector.

All figures provided relate to newly qualified teachers (NQTs) who entered the maintained schools sector in 2002-03 and who are still in service in 2007-08 (the most recent data available). The following table shows the percentage of newly qualified teachers who were still in service in local authority maintained schools five years after qualification.

The number of full and part-time[1] NQTs who joined the service in 2002-03, and were still in service in the maintained sector in England in 2007-08[2]

	Nursery/ primary	*Secondary*	*Total maintained sector*[3]
Entered service in 2002-2003	9,800	11,600	21,600
In service in 2007-2008[4]	7,600	8,300	16,000
Not in service in 2007-2008	2,200	3,300	5,600
Percentage in service after five years	77	72	74

[1] Teachers in part-time service are under-recorded on the DTR by between 10 and 20 per cent. and therefore these figures may be slightly underestimated.
[2] Figures relating to 2007-08 are provisional and subject to change.
[3] Total maintained sector includes teachers in maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units.
[4] Those in service in 2007-08 will not all have been in service for the full five years, some may have left and returned to service within the five years.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Overall, 21,600 NQTs entered full or part-time service in the maintained schools sector (includes nursery/primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units) in 2002-03 in England. Five years later, in 2007-08, 74 per cent. of these were recorded as still in service in the maintained schools sector in England.

Many teachers return to service after a break. In 2007-08, the latest year for which figures are available, around 8,500 qualified teachers returned to service in the maintained sector (all school types) after a break of at least one year.

Youth of Today Programme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people have participated in his Department's Youth of Today programme *(a)* shadowing ministers, *(b)* as part of the fellowship programme, *(c)* shadowing local councillors, *(d)* as registered local role models since the programme's inception. [293646]

Mr. Coaker: The information is as follows:

(a) Since the inception of the programme, no young person has shadowed a Minister. There are currently 22 opportunities to shadow Ministers arranged to take place in the coming months;

(b) 276 young people have participated in the Fellowship since the inception of the programme;

(c) 23 young people have participated in the local shadowing scheme since the inception of the programme;

(d) 15 young people have registered as local role models since the inception of the programme, a recruitment drive to select a further 50 role models will be launched shortly.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people were involved in the Summer 2009 fellowship operated by his Department's Youth of Today programme; what the cost of each fellowship was; what was required of each fellow; and whether he plans to publish an assessment of the effectiveness of the programme. [293648]

Mr. Coaker: 165 young people attended the TYOT Fellowship summer residential. An additional 111 young people will be participating in the Fellowship local groups, along with those that participated in the residential, over the course of the next year. The cost of delivering this years fellowship is £617,111.

The requirements for the Fellows are to develop as young leaders within their community; take action through a programme of local group activity; influence others to make positive change locally, nationally and globally; and to complete 1,000 Positive Actions by the end of their Fellowship experience.

The effectiveness of the programme will be assessed through an external evaluation of The Youth of Today programme.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female sex offenders are living in residential accommodation provided by (i) the NHS and (ii) relevant charities in Northern Ireland; [293966]

(2) by what mechanism the care and re-homing of sex offenders deemed physically or mentally ill is funded in Northern Ireland; [293967]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to inform healthcare staff when a patient has a criminal conviction for sex offences. [293968]

Paul Goggins: Although public protection arrangements, for which I have responsibility, bring together a number of criminal justice agencies, and others, to assess and manage risk of harm posed by the most serious offenders, these questions relate specifically to areas of health and social care and are therefore matters devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 22 October 2009

JUSTICE

Prisoners: Drugs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders aged 10 to 17 years entered custody with a substance misuse problem in each year since 1997. [294183]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not collect this information.

Prisoners: Mental Health

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners were diagnosed with mental health problems during the latest period for which figures are available. [294296]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Figures about the number of prisoners with mental health problems are not routinely collected. However a survey of mental ill health in the prison population undertaken in 1997 by the Office for National Statistics estimated that around 90 per cent. of prisoners had at least one of the five disorders (personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis, alcohol misuse, and drug dependence) considered in the survey. Co-morbidity levels were also high.

In 2008 Ministry of Justice research suggested that common mental health problems are very prevalent with 82 per cent. of prisoners on sentences of less than four years identified with anxiety or depression.

Prisoners: Suicide

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many reported suicides there have been of prisoners in each year since 1997. [294301]

Claire Ward: The following table lists the annual totals for self-inflicted deaths in prison custody for each of the years 1997 to 2008.

	Self-inflicted deaths[1]
1997	68
1998	83
1999	91
2000	81
2001	73
2002	95
2003	94
2004	95
2005	78
2006	67
2007	92
2008	60

[1] The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Every death in prison is a tragedy, and affects families, staff and other prisoners deeply. Ministers, the Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service are committed to learning from each death and to reducing the number of such incidents. Good care and support from staff save many lives, but such instances go largely unreported. Prisons successfully keep safe in any given month approximately 1,500 prisoners assessed to be at particular risk of suicide or self-harm. Deaths in prisons are among the most scrutinised of all incidents and each case is subject to a police investigation and independent investigation by the prisons probation ombudsman. Robust systems are in place for monitoring deaths and learning from them.

Sexual Offences: Prisons

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints of sexual violence were recorded in prisons in the latest period for which figures are available. [294292]

Claire Ward: In the financial year 2008-09, 124 sexual assaults were recorded on the National Offender Management Service's incident reporting system (IRS). This figure includes proven and unproven allegations and is subject to change because some allegations are removed or reclassified following investigation.

Without cross reference to the police national database, we cannot confirm how many of these original allegations reached a full investigation. Such further information would not prove cost-effective to produce.

Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy. From mid-2007, this policy has been applied to both the public sector and contracted estate. The strategy requires each prison to undertake regular analysis of the problem areas, consider solutions and provide an action plan to improve personal safety and reduce violence. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety. This includes environmental and physical measures, as well as alternative ways of managing behaviour.

TRANSPORT

Vehicles: Insurance

13. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to reduce the number of vehicles driven on public roads without valid insurance; and if he will make a statement. [294806]

Paul Clark: Regulations are being drafted to bring into force a new scheme of continuous enforcement of motor insurance.

This scheme will identify those potentially uninsured by regularly comparing vehicle registration data on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) database with the database of insured vehicles maintained by the Motor Insurers' Bureau. Vehicle keepers found to be without valid insurance will be subject to enforcement action by the DVLA.

High-Speed Rail

14. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had on proposals for a high-speed rail link between the North West and London. [294807]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State and my ministerial colleagues meet regularly with key stakeholders to discuss a range of transport issues, including high-speed rail.

The Secretary of State was in Manchester on Wednesday 21 October 2009 at the Northern Regeneration Summit, where he engaged with a range of organisations and regional bodies, and provided the keynote speech, on high-speed rail.

I also engaged with stakeholders across the North West, Yorkshire and Humber as part of my rail tour of those regions in September.

15. **Mr. Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent progress has been made on consideration of proposals for a high-speed rail hub at Birmingham International Airport. [294808]

Chris Mole: "High Speed Two" has been formed to help develop the case for high-speed rail services. As a first stage, High Speed Two will report by the end of the year with for a proposed route from London to the West Midlands. This will include consideration of a range of route options as well as access to central London and the other cities served.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

16. **Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of heavy goods vehicles registered overseas which used roads in the UK in 2008. [294809]

Paul Clark: In 2008 around 3.5 per cent. of all heavy goods vehicle traffic in Great Britain were estimated to be foreign-registered vehicles.

A34

17. **Dr. Harris:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if the Government would support the construction of a full diamond interchange on the A34 at Lodge Hill near Abingdon; and if he will make a statement. [294811]

Chris Mole: Oxfordshire county council are examining the impact of junction improvements in the Central Oxfordshire area. The junction operation at Lodge Hill and the impact of any proposed development will need to be examined by the Vale of White Horse District Council for their Local Development Framework. The Government cannot consider supporting such a proposal until the need is established.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293338]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its agencies do not record rail travel expenditure separately for different classes of travel. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Official travel in the Department is undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Marine and Coastguard Agency

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent progress has been made by the Marine and Coastguard Agency in implementing the findings of research it has commissioned on small vessel safety; and if he will make a statement. [293176]

Paul Clark: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) in conjunction with the key stakeholders, including the Fishing Industry Safety Group (FISG), continues to work on improvements for small vessel safety with the industry through an improving safety culture, influenced by consultants, surveyors and, where appropriate, fishermen.

The MCA has an ongoing programme of research. Each piece of research is validated and subject to cost-benefit analysis. Where practicable and agreed suitable for application it is implemented either through mandatory regulation, instructions to surveyors, or guidance for industry.

Currently, the MCA is considering the outputs of research projects, carried out by a number of consultancies, and accident investigations focussing on the stability and seaworthiness of small vessels.

The review of the fishing vessel projects is being undertaken in conjunction with the Stability Sub-Group of FISG, to ensure they are consistent and address the underlying safety problems identified from the accident investigations.

Motorway: Closures

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions in the last 12 months an initial decision fully to close a motorway by a road policing officer has been overturned by a supervisor at the Highways Agency or Highway Authority. [294744]

Chris Mole: No Highways Agency staff have the authority to overturn an instruction given by a police constable.

The Traffic Management Act 2004, Section 4 (1) states

> "A traffic officer shall, when carrying out his duties, comply with any direction of a constable".

Railways: Standards

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on recent levels of performance of rail services operated by *(a)* Virgin Trains and *(b)* London Midland between Milton Keynes and Euston. [294810]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the specific data requested but the overall Virgin West Coast Public Performance Measure improved for the period from 23 August to 19 September 2009 against the same period last year, with an increase of 5.7 per cent. from 83.3 per cent. to 89 per cent. For London Midland the equivalent change was a 4.1 per cent. increase, from 86.6 per cent. to 90.7 per cent.

Roads: Construction

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the length of time taken by local authorities adopting residential roads in new developments; and if he will make a statement. [294939]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport has no information on the adoption of streets in new developments by local highway authorities and has made no estimate of the time authorities take to do so.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Coal Fired Power Stations

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the reuse of waste ash and (ii) levels of radioactive emissions from coal-fired power stations. [293899]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 12 October 2009]:* DECC has not commissioned or evaluated research on the re-use of waste ash and levels of radioactive emissions from coal-fired power stations. According to industry sources, around 50 per cent. of waste pulverised fuel ash from coal-fired power stations is re-used in the construction sector.

Collaborative Offshore Wind Research into the Environment

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what procedures are used to allocate funding for research projects by Collaborative Offshore Wind Research into the Environment. [294039]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* Collaborative Offshore Windfarm Research Into the Environment (COWRIE) is an independent registered Charity that was set up to advance and improve understanding and knowledge of the potential environmental impacts of offshore wind farm development in UK waters. COWRIE Ltd is governed by a board of trustees who are responsible for overseeing the administration of the company and its financial governance. Further information can be found on their website:

http://www.offshorewind.co.uk/Pages/COWRIE

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Barstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on first class rail travel for officials since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [293331]

Joan Ruddock: The Department's officials have spent a total of £217,425 on first-class rail travel since the inception of the Department on 3 October 2008.

Energy: Meters

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) if he will bring forward proposals for the compulsory installation of stand-alone home energy displays alongside smart meters; [294035]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that energy suppliers provide stand-alone home energy displays alongside smart meters under the smart metering scheme. [294106]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* The Government recently published a consultation on smart metering for electricity and gas. As part of the consultation the Government invited views on the type of consumption information that should be provided to consumers, and on the expectation that stand-alone, real-time displays would be provided with smart meters. The Government will respond to the consultation in due course.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure that energy companies work with local authorities to deliver the smart metering scheme. [294107]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* The Government recently published a consultation on smart metering for electricity and gas. This included questions on a range of delivery and deployment options. The Government will respond to the consultation in due course. Following the Government response work will commence on detailed preparation for the full roll-out of smart meters.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage fuel companies to pass on reductions in energy costs to customers. [294121]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The Government have asked Ofgem to report on wholesale costs and retail prices on a quarterly basis, to improve transparency. The latest of these reports was issued in August. The Government and Ofgem have made it clear that we expect to see energy suppliers reduce prices when costs allow.

Plutonium: Exports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 1976W, on plutonium: exports, *(a)* which ships were used in each respective transport to which reference is made and *(b)* which United Kingdom port of departure and Swedish port of destination was used in each case; and when he expects the irradiated advanced cooled reactor fuel pins to be returned to the United Kingdom from Sweden. [292490]

Mr. Kidney: The Intermediate Level Waste containing approximately 5g of plutonium was contained within drums and shipped in a lorry from Immingham to Gothenburg on a normal commercial ferry. The cargo met all the regulatory and licence requirements for the chosen method of transport.

The container of 46 irradiated advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) fuel pins containing less than 400g of plutonium was shipped from Workington to Wallhamn on the Atlantic Osprey. This is a special-purpose cargo vessel, approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency to International Maritime Organisation standards to be certificated as an INF2 (Irradiated Nuclear Fuel) vessel.

The fuel pins are still undergoing analytical examination and plans for their return to the UK have not yet been made.

Sellafield

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has contracts with (i) Nuclear Management Partners and (ii) Sellafield Ltd. on the management of the Sellafield site. [289876]

Mr. Kidney: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not have any contracts with Nuclear Management Partners or Sellafield Ltd. The NDA have:

(i) a Parent Body Agreement with Nuclear Management Partners (redacted copy available on NDA website www.nda.gov.uk; and

(ii) a Management and Operations contract with Sellafield Ltd. (redacted copy available on NDA website www.nda.gov.uk).

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority expect to receive fees from (i) Nuclear Management Partners and (ii) Sellafield Ltd. in relation to the management of the Sellafield site. [289877]

Mr. Kidney: Under the terms of its contract with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), Nuclear Management Partners (NMP) will be able to earn performance related fees. No fees will be paid by NMP to either the NDA or the Government.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Bigamy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* offences of bigamy have been recorded and *(b)* how many people have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted for offences related to bigamy in each police force area in each year since 1997. [294156]

Alan Johnson: The Home Office has responsibility for the police recorded crime statistics and figures for the number of offences of bigamy recorded by the police are given in Tables 1-3.

Court proceedings statistics are collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Table 4 shows the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for bigamy in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 (latest available). Data for 2008 are planned for publication at the end of January 2010.

The police recorded crime data are based on the number of offences recorded in each financial year. Court proceedings data are based on the number of offenders. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Offences of bigamy recorded by the police

	Number of offences
Police force area	*1997*
Avon and Somerset	1
Bedfordshire	0
Cambridgeshire	0
Cheshire	1
Cleveland	1
Cumbria	0
Derbyshire	1
Devon and Cornwall	0
Dorset	1
Durham	0
Dyfed-Powys	0
Essex	1
Gloucestershire	0
Greater Manchester	2
Gwent	0
Hampshire	1
Hertfordshire	0
Humberside	0
Kent	3
Lancashire	1
Leicestershire	0
Lincolnshire	2
London, City of	0
Merseyside	0
Metropolitan Police	48
Norfolk	0
Northamptonshire	0
Northumbria	0
North Wales	0
North Yorkshire	2
Nottinghamshire	0
South Wales	0
South Yorkshire	0
Staffordshire	1
Suffolk	1
Surrey	1
Sussex	1
Thames Valley	1
Warwickshire	0
West Mercia	0
West Midlands	4
West Yorkshire	1
Wiltshire	0
England and Wales	75

Table 2: Offences of bigamy recorded by the police[1], [2]

Number of offences

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	6	4	4	0
Bedfordshire	0	2	0	0
Cambridgeshire	2	0	2	0
Cheshire	1	1	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	1
Cumbria	2	0	0	1
Derbyshire	3	1	4	0
Devon and Cornwall	1	0	3	2
Dorset	0	0	1	3
Durham	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0
Essex	1	2	0	0
Gloucestershire	1	0	0	2
Greater Manchester	4	0	5	2
Gwent	3	0	1	2
Hampshire	2	2	3	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	1	1
Humberside	1	0	1	0
Kent	2	3	2	2
Lancashire	2	0	1	1
Leicestershire	1	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	1	0	1	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	3	1	2	1
Metropolitan Police	62	41	33	39
Norfolk	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	1	2
Northumbria	0	2	0	1
North Wales	1	1	0	2
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	1	1
South Wales	2	1	1	0
South Yorkshire	0	1	1	0
Staffordshire	1	2	1	0
Suffolk	2	2	0	1
Surrey	2	0	2	1
Sussex	7	2	4	3
Thames Valley	1	5	1	1
Warwickshire	0	1	0	0
West Mercia	4	1	1	0
West Midlands	4	4	2	2
West Yorkshire	7	3	1	3
Wiltshire	0	1	0	0
England and Wales	129	83	80	74

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

[2] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of bigamy recorded by the police[1]

Number of offences

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Avon and Somerset	2	2	2	2	1	3	4
Bedfordshire	2	0	3	1	0	1	1
Cambridgeshire	4	3	1	1	2	0	2
Cheshire	0	1	2	1	0	1	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Devon and Cornwall	2	4	1	0	0	4	1
Dorset	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Offences of bigamy recorded by the police[1]

Number of offences

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Essex	3	1	1	0	0	1	1
Gloucestershire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	5	1	5	5	5	2	5
Gwent	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hampshire	6	4	0	5	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	4	3	0	0	1
Humberside	3	0	4	1	2	0	0
Kent	1	3	2	1	1	1	1
Lancashire	0	2	0	0	1	2	1
Leicestershire	0	3	1	5	1	0	1
Lincolnshire	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	1	0	3	0	2	2
Metropolitan Police	33	25	40	37	21	30	18
Norfolk	0	2	1	1	0	3	2
Northamptonshire	0	2	5	0	3	1	0
Northumbria	1	2	0	1	1	0	1
North Wales	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
North Yorkshire	2	0	1	0	1	0	1
Nottinghamshire	3	3	1	0	2	0	0
South Wales	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
South Yorkshire	2	1	1	3	1	0	0
Staffordshire	1	0	0	2	2	0	3
Suffolk	2	0	2	2	0	1	1
Surrey	1	0	3	1	2	0	1
Sussex	0	0	1	2	1	1	1
Thames Valley	3	1	6	5	2	7	4
Warwickshire	1	0	1	2	0	5	3
West Mercia	1	0	2	0	2	0	1
West Midlands	1	3	4	6	6	1	2
West Yorkshire	2	3	2	2	0	1	4
Wiltshire	2	0	1	5	0	2	0
England and Wales	88	71	104	101	61	74	65

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 4: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for bigamy, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

Force	*Proceeded against*										
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—
Cambridgeshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Cheshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
City of London	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Derbyshire	—	—	3	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
Dorset	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	1	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	3	3	—
Hampshire	2	—	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Kent	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2
Leicestershire	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Merseyside	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1

Table 4: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for bigamy, England and Wales 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded against										
Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Metropolitan Police	8	18	18	4	3	10	9	8	9	6	4
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Staffordshire	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
Suffolk	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	1	—	3	4	—	—	—	1	—
Thames Valley	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
West Midlands	1	2	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	3	1
West Yorkshire	1	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
South Wales	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—
England and Wales	22	30	40	17	23	31	29	22	28	23	17

	Found guilty										
Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cambridgeshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Derbyshire	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Dorset	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—
Hampshire	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	1	1	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Humberside	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Kent	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Leicestershire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Merseyside	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Metropolitan Police	7	13	12	4	3	3	4	5	7	2	3
Norfolk	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Suffolk	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	1
Thames Valley	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Found guilty										
Force	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
West Midlands	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	1
West Yorkshire	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
England and Wales	16	18	28	12	17	16	20	22	21	11	16

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown court in the following year, or the defendant was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Extradition: USA

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the provision of the UK-US extradition treaty; and if he will make a statement. [294307]

Meg Hillier: The UK-US extradition treaty was one of the topics debated during the Opposition day debate at the end of the last parliamentary Session. There have been no recent discussions between myself and ministerial colleagues on this matter. The Government are satisfied that the treaty is balanced, fair and working well.

Identity Cards: Airports

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of workers at *(a)* Manchester Airport and *(b)* London City Airport expected to take up the option of purchasing an identity card in 2010; and how many of those workers are already Critical Workers Identity Card holders. [295020]

Meg Hillier: All airside workers at Manchester and London City airports will be able to apply for an identity card from later this year. In a written ministerial statement on 30 June 2009, my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, confirmed that holding an identity card should be a personal choice for British citizens and that cards issued to airside workers will be voluntary. During an 18-month evaluation period from launch, there will be no fee charged for identity cards issued to airside workers.

Identity Cards: Greater Manchester

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of people in the Greater Manchester area likely to take up the option of purchasing an identity card in 2010. [295021]

Meg Hillier: No estimate has been made of the number of people in the Greater Manchester area likely to take up the option of purchasing an identity card in 2010. However, the Identity and Passport Service has already been working very closely with local stakeholders and will be making a range of material available to inform local residents in Greater Manchester when they will be able to apply for a national identity card at a fee of £30 that can be used to travel in Europe in place of a passport.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Members

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether hon. Members will be required to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority before visiting *(a)* schools and *(b)* youth groups in their constituencies or elsewhere under the provisions of the Vetting and Barring Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [288768]

Meg Hillier: No individual will be required to register on the basis that they are merely visiting a school or youth group; they must be carrying out regulated activities as defined under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which includes work on behalf of the establishment or 'work of a specified type' such as the provision of care or guidance to young people. An MP teaching a class on politics or regularly volunteering with a youth group would be required to register as would any private citizen.

Police: Injuries

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force area have had injury awards *(a)* reduced and *(b)* reduced to minimum levels on reaching retirement age in each year since 2004. [294159]

Alan Johnson: Statistics on the number of injury awards reduced and reduced to minimum levels on reaching retirement age are not collected centrally.

Police: Resignations

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female police officers in each police force area (i) resigned and (ii) were dismissed in each year since 2002. [294182]

Alan Johnson: The available data have been collected since 2002-03 and are given in the following table:

Police officer dismissals and resignations by police force and gender (full-time equivalent)[1], 2002-03 to 2008-/09[2]

	2002-03[3]				2003-04				2004-05			
	Police Officer Voluntary Resignations		Police Officer Dismissals		Police Officer Voluntary Resignations		Police Officer Dismissals		Police Officer Voluntary Resignations		Police Officer Dismissals	
Fore name	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Avon and Somerset	8	3	1	n/a	42	10	3	0	30	10	4	1
Bedfordshire	19	3	2	0	30	9	0	0	24	11	4	0
Cambridgeshire	13	9	3	1	20	3	2	0	24	10	4	0
Cheshire	8	2	2	0	14	7	0	0	17	9	2	0
Cleveland	3	0	3	2	19	4	2	1	16	4	4	0
Cumbria	3	6	1	1	5	6	1	0	11	4	0	0
Derbyshire	11	3	4	0	15	6	2	1	15	5	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	16	6	6	1	9	4	2	1	20	12	3	0
Dorset	10	1	2	0	14	4	1	0	14	6	3	0
Durham	2	2	0	0	14	5	0	1	9	10	1	0
Essex	9	3	n/a	n/a	23	13	2	1	50	16	1	1
Gloucestershire	6	4	n/a	n/a	8	8	2	0	12	4	0	0
Greater Manchester	31	12	3	0	97	29	11	0	84	44	4	1
Hampshire	25	10	3	0	51	17	5	1	33	14	4	1
Hertfordshire	25	3	3	0	45	11	4	0	40	15	1	1
Humberside	9	11	0	1	22	7	3	n/a	28	8	0	0
Kent	23	14	0	0	61	11	1	0	47	13	0	0
Lancashire	13	4	5	1	22	6	4	1	33	10	1	1
Leicestershire	11	9	0	0	27	8	0	1	25	11	1	0
Lincolnshire	6	4	0	0	10	6	1	0	16	3	0	0
London, City of	17	2	1	0	10	2	0	0	10	1	0	1
Merseyside	15	8	2	1	20	14	6	1	31	7	8	1
Metropolitan Police	377	75	18	1	425	127	23	-1	326	96	31	1
Norfolk	6	3	0	1	5	5	1	0	11	2	2	0
Northamptonshire	7	2	0	0	15	11	2	0	16	14	0	0
Northumbria	26	9	1	2	20	9	6	0	25	9	2	0
North Yorkshire	9	2	0	0	12	3	3	n/a	10	8	0	0
Nottinghamshire	9	3	1	0	10	3	1	0	21	4	1	0
South Yorkshire	22	14	3	0	37	10	1	0	38	19	0	0
Staffordshire	5	2	0	1	21	6	5	1	31	12	3	0
Suffolk	9	5	1	0	19	9	1	1	16	10	3	0
Surrey	22	5	0	0	21	13	5	2	26	6	2	0
Sussex	30	5	0	0	79	46	4	2	82	30	2	0
Thames Valley	50	14	2	2	52	20	1	0	72	28	1	0
Warwickshire	13	1	1	0	14	5	2	0	7	8	2	0
West Mercia	15	3	0	0	20	7	3	1	14	7	2	0
West Midlands	56	33	11	0	79	29	4	0	86	33	13	5
West Yorkshire	20	14	6	0	28	18	5	1	48	24	2	0
Wiltshire	12	6	2	1	9	9	0	0	16	9	1	0
Dyfed-Powys	4	1	1	0	7	2	1	n/a	12	5	1	0
Gwent	0	1	1	0	9	6	0	0	11	6	2	0
North Wales	7	0	0	0	15	7	0	0	9	8	1	0
South Wales	13	7	0	3	18	3	4	0	13	5	2	1
Total	995	321	89	19	1,491	535	124	16	1,476	566	118	15

	2005-06				2006-07			
	Police Officer Voluntary Resignations		Police Officer Dismissals		Police Officer Voluntary Resignations		Police Officer Dismissals	
Fore name	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Avon and Somerset	54	23	3	1	27	8	1	0
Bedfordshire	20	5	0	0	15	8	5	0
Cambridgeshire	19	7	2	0	17	11	1	0
Cheshire	28	9	3	0	15	9	4	0
Cleveland	19	5	3	0	16	9	0	0
Cumbria	7	4	1	1	9	8	0	0
Derbyshire	13	7	3	0	36	5	3	2
Devon and Cornwall	35	9	0	0	21	14	4	0
Dorset	14	8	2	1	15	4	2	1
Durham	11	4	1	0	9	7	0	0
Essex	62	17	8	1	63	18	5	0
Gloucestershire	17	2	2	0	10	10	2	0
Greater Manchester	152	34	16	5	122	37	3	3
Hampshire	42	22	5	1	34	15	0	1
Hertfordshire	43	12	2	0	43	20	1	1
Humberside	21	10	4	0	23	11	2	0
Kent	48	17	2	1	35	14	1	0
Lancashire	12	14	2	1	22	10	6	0
Leicestershire	33	12	3	0	20	7	2	0
Lincolnshire	11	9	0	0	13	3	3	0
London, City of	8	3	0	0	7	4	0	1
Merseyside	70	13	10	0	47	14	1	0
Metropolitan Police	258	79	24	4	429	102	29	2
Norfolk	15	7	0	1	15	9	1	0
Northamptonshire	14	10	1	0	14	5	2	1
Northumbria	27	11	1	1	35	13	8	0
North Yorkshire	12	5	2	0	24	8	0	0
Nottinghamshire	9	5	1	0	21	7	2	0
South Yorkshire	29	11	2	2	30	9	0	0
Staffordshire	19	5	2	0	16	6	5	1
Suffolk	11	3	4	0	9	3	2	0
Surrey	24	13	4	1	32	14	7	3
Sussex	56	26	4	1	51	24	5	0
Thames Valley	91	40	7	1	53	33	4	1
Warwickshire	10	2	2	0	9	9	0	0
West Mercia	11	8	2	2	27	11	1	0
West Midlands	95	42	7	1	79	27	22	4
West Yorkshire	53	36	5	0	45	20	3	0
Wiltshire	20	6	0	0	9	7	1	0
Dyfed-Powys	8	4	3	0	6	2	0	0
Gwent	16	4	1	2	13	3	1	0
North Wales	22	5	3	0	16	7	1	0
South Wales	22	7	2	1	33	6	1	0
Total	1,559	575	149	29	1,581	569	141	20

	2007-08				2008-09			
	Police Officer Voluntary Resignations		Police Officer Dismissals		Police Officer Voluntary Resignations		Police Officer Dismissals	
Fore name	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Avon and Somerset	35	13	1	0	17	11	2	1
Bedfordshire	20	11	1	0	24	1	3	0
Cambridgeshire	9	3	1	3	18	7	0	0
Cheshire	11	6	3	0	10	7	2	0
Cleveland	15	8	2	0	15	4	3	0
Cumbria	5	6	0	1	13	8	0	1

	2007-08				*2008-09*			
	Police Officer Voluntary Resignations		*Police Officer Dismissals*		*Police Officer Voluntary Resignations*		*Police Officer Dismissals*	
Fore name	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Derbyshire	31	8	4	0	29	5	4	0
Devon and Cornwall	29	9	2	0	25	12	2	0
Dorset	20	6	2	0	11	3	1	1
Durham	15	4	1	0	10	6	2	0
Essex	59	14	1	0	37	17	2	2
Gloucestershire	13	5	0	0	9	3	0	1
Greater Manchester	98	39	4	4	63	34	7	0
Hampshire	30	16	5	0	31	14	2	2
Hertfordshire	35	15	3	1	21	13	5	0
Humberside	31	10	2	0	29	7	2	0
Kent	42	15	4	0	42	15	1	1
Lancashire	24	10	7	1	18	6	6	0
Leicestershire	38	16	5	2	23	12	2	0
Lincolnshire	12	4	0	0	12	3	0	0
London, City of	12	5	1	1	4	1	0	0
Merseyside	29	12	11	2	34	13	9	1
Metropolitan Police	278	82	22	1	295	88	16	3
Norfolk	11	5	1	0	26	6	3	2
Northamptonshire	14	11	1	1	11	8	4	0
Northumbria	34	12	7	2	40	8	4	0
North Yorkshire	17	14	2	0	19	9	2	0
Nottinghamshire	18	5	2	0	19	6	1	0
South Yorkshire	29	11	0	0	21	9	1	0
Staffordshire	18	6	6	2	16	6	0	1
Suffolk	17	6	2	0	20	11	2	0
Surrey	28	19	4	1	34	18	3	1
Sussex	56	20	0	1	40	20	2	0
Thames Valley	49	29	4	0	29	22	5	3
Warwickshire	17	3	1	0	6	3	1	0
West Mercia	21	11	0	0	21	7	1	0
West Midlands	62	30	11	5	83	26	7	1
West Yorkshire	60	25	6	2	49	24	5	1
Wiltshire	19	9	0	0	23	6	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	10	2	2	1	4	5	2	1
Gwent	17	7	5	1	18	4	2	0
North Wales	10	6	0	0	10	4	0	0
South Wales	68	12	2	0	73	15	1	1
Total	1,461	559	138	32	1,351	504	117	24

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. Data have not previously been published in this format therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Comparable data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[3] Excludes quarters 1, 2 and 3, as data are not available.

Police: Standards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department against how many statutory performance indicators police forces are being assessed against in 2009-10. [294426]

Alan Johnson: Following the changes announced in the Policing Green Paper in 2008, indicators within APACS are no longer statutory, but are set for each year following consultation with the National Policing Board, which includes tripartite partners. For 2009-10, 36 performance indicators are in APACS, but the Home Office does not make any assessment of police forces against those with the exception of the remaining single top down target relating to public confidence.

Her Majesty's inspectorate of constabulary (HMIC) are now responsible for making assessments of police forces and publishing them, drawing on the APACS data set and other information as necessary.

Vetting

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a Criminal Records Bureau check identifies whether the person in respect of which the check is being made has had children taken into care. [294640]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 20 October 2009]*: Section 114 B (4) of Part V of the Police Act 1997 requires that in addition to criminal record information from the Police National Computer (PNC), Enhanced Disclosures should include any other information which a chief police officer holds and considers might be relevant to the job application in question and ought to be disclosed. This may include information concerning children taken into care.

This is usually non-conviction information deriving from local force records and is referred to as 'approved information'. Chief officers are obliged to provide such information for Enhanced Disclosures under the Act. Where disclosed, information of this nature is considered by the police to represent a factual record of previous events that an employer in the most sensitive type of occupation should be aware of in making an employment decision affecting the most vulnerable groups of people.

Vetting: Standards

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the average time for a Criminal Records Bureau check to be completed. [294297]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer of 29 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 80W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many days air pollution recorded at each London air quality monitoring site exceeded EU legal limits for air pollution in each year since 2005. [291633]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Council Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe requires member states to assess ambient air for levels of a number of defined pollutants. The directive sets out limit values which member states are required to meet. The limit values specify both the level the pollutants must be kept below, and the time over which data should be averaged. Limit values with averaging times of less than or equal to 24 hours, and which have been or are being exceeded in London are detailed below:

NO_2 hourly mean of 200 ug/m^3 (not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year)

24 hour mean (PM_{10} of 50 ug/m^3, (not be exceeded more than 35 times per year).

The following table indicates for monitoring sites in London the number of days per year where an exceedance of either of the above detailed limit values has occurred, for all years between 2005 and 2008 inclusive.

Site Code	*Site Name*	*Year*	*Days Exceedance of EU Limit Value*
A30	London A3 Roadside	2005	2
CD1	Camden Kerbside	2005	6
HS5	Brentford Roadside	2005	7
KC2	London Cromwell Road 2	2005	2
MY1	London Marylebone Road	2005	156
Total 2005			173
MY1	London Marylebone Road	2006	159
Total 2006			159
CD1	Camden Kerbside	2007	21
HG1	Haringey Roadside	2007	1
HK4	London Hackney	2007	3
HS5	Brentford Roadside	2007	5
MY1	London Marylebone Road	2007	123
total 2007			153
CD1	Camden Kerbside	2008	27
HS5	Brentford Roadside	2008	23
MY1	London Marylebone Road	2008	178
Total 2008			228

The following should be noted in conjunction with the table.

The numbers presented represent a combination of both the above limit values.

If a single day occurred where there was an exceedance of both the above limit values, it has only been counted once, i.e. the total number of days per year exceeding at each site cannot exceed 365.

For the hourly mean N02 limit value, the number presented represents a single hour in the day above 200 microgrammes/m^3 (where the total number of hourly means in excess of 200 microgrammes/m^3 at that site was greater than 18 in the year). This counts as one day where an exceedance occurred, even though there may have been several hours above this concentration in the 24 hour period. Only hours in excess of the 18 allowed per year have been counted as contributing to the exceedance.

For the daily mean PM10 limit value, the total number of days represents the number of days where 24 hour mean concentrations were in excess of 50 microgrammes/m^3, with the first 35 allowed occurrences subtracted.

Therefore the days counted include only those which are above the 35 days per year allowed, or 18 hours per year allowed, as defined by the limit values.

Data have only been reported for sites with more than 90 per cent. data capture.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average annual concentration of nitrogen dioxide in micrograms per cubic metre was recorded at each London air quality monitoring site in each year since 2005. [291636]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under EU legislation, the UK is required to assess ambient air for levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and to report to the European Commission on an annual basis. Detailed reports on the assessments are available from the Air Quality Archive (www.airquality.co.uk). Nitrogen dioxide monitoring is undertaken in London at a number of sites for this purpose in accordance with the criteria in the Council Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe.

Annual mean NO_2 monitoring data are displayed in the table for sites within London for years since 2005. Data are only displayed for sites where data capture for that year was greater than 90 per cent.

Site code	*Site name*	*Year*	*Annual mean NO_2 (microgrammes/m^{3})*
A30	London A3 Roadside	2005	61
BL0	London Bloomsbury	2005	57
BX1	London Bexley	2005	36
BY7	Bromley Roadside	2005	49
HG1	Haringey Roadside	2005	42
HG2	London Haringey	2005	34
HI0	London Hillingdon	2005	45
HK4	London Hackney	2005	49
HS5	Brentford Roadside	2005	49
KC1	London N. Kensington	2005	40
KC2	London Cromwell Road 2	2005	79
LH0	London Harlington	2005	38
LW1	London Lewisham	2005	51
MY1	London Marylebone Road	2005	112
SK1	London Southwark	2005	49
SK2	Southwark Roadside	2005	60
TD0	London Teddington	2005	25
TH2	Tower Hamlets Roadside	2005	61
WA2	London Wandsworth	2005	54
A30	London A3 Roadside	2006	59
BL0	London Bloomsbury	2006	57
BT1	London Brent	2006	30
BX1	London Bexley	2006	36
CD1	Camden Kerbside	2006	71
GR4	London Eltham	2006	30
HG2	London Haringey	2006	33
HI0	London Hillingdon	2006	49
KC1	London N. Kensington	2006	38
KC2	London Cromwell Road 2	2006	83
LH0	London Harlington	2006	37
LW1	London Lewisham	2006	54
MY1	London Marylebone Road	2006	110
TD0	London Teddington	2006	23
TH2	Tower Hamlets Roadside	2006	60
WA2	London Wandsworth	2006	51
WM0	London Westminster	2006	50
BT1	London Brent	2007	32
BX1	London Bexley	2007	34
BY7	Bromley Roadside	2007	47
CD1	Camden Kerbside	2007	77
GR4	London Eltham	2007	30
HG1	Haringey Roadside	2007	42
HG2	London Haringey	2007	32
HI0	London Hillingdon	2007	45
HK4	London Hackney	2007	49
HS5	Brentford Roadside	2007	63
KC1	London N. Kensington	2007	39
KC2	London Cromwell Road 2	2007	71
LH0	London Harlington	2007	37
LW1	London Lewisham	2007	53

Site code	*Site name*	*Year*	*Annual mean NO_2 (microgrammes/m^3)*
MY1	London Marylebone Road	2007	102
SK1	London Southwark	2007	44
TD0	London Teddington	2007	28
BL0	London Bloomsbury	2008	55
BT1	London Brent	2008	33
BX1	London Bexley	2008	33
BY7	Bromley Roadside	2008	45
CD1	Camden Kerbside	2008	76
GR4	London Eltham	2008	26
HG1	Haringey Roadside	2008	37
HG2	London Haringey	2008	32
HK4	London Hackney	2008	51
HS5	Brentford Roadside	2008	58
KC1	London N. Kensington	2008	33
LH0	London Harlington	2008	35
LW1	London Lewisham	2008	52
MY1	London Marylebone Road	2008	115
SK1	London Southwark	2008	47
TD0	London Teddington	2008	25
TH2	Tower Hamlets Roadside	2008	63
WM0	London Westminster	2008	40

All combustion processes in air produce oxides of nitrogen (NOx). Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and nitric acid (NO) are both oxides of nitrogen and are referred to as NO_x. Road transport is the main source. At high levels NO_2 causes inflammation of the airways. Long-term exposure may affect lung function and respiratory symptoms.

London is currently exceeding the EU Limit Value of 40 microgrammes/m^3 and is not likely to meet this value by the attainment date of 2010. The Council Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe provides for member states to submit plans to the European Commission to postpone the compliance deadline for meeting the limit value for nitrogen dioxide from 2010 to 2015. The UK Government expect to submit such a plan to the Commission in 2010 following consultation early next year.

Carbon Labelling Scheme

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of retail sales accounted for by retailers who have agreed to participate in the Carbon Labelling Scheme. [293675]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for carbon labelling policy lies with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. DECC is responsible for the Government's sponsorship of the Carbon Trust (CT), of which the Carbon Label Co. (CLC) is a subsidiary.

The CLC has developed the Carbon Reduction Label to help businesses and consumers understand the carbon footprints of the products and services they use.

DECC has not made an estimate of the proportion of retail sales accounted for by retailers who have adopted the Carbon Reduction Label. More information on the scheme can be obtained from the Carbon Trust direct.

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely *(a)* reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* savings to manufacturers arising from the Carbon Labelling Scheme. [293676]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for carbon labelling policy lies with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. DECC is responsible for the Government's sponsorship of the Carbon Trust (CT), of which the Carbon Label Co. (CLC) is a subsidiary.

The CLC has developed the Carbon Reduction Label to help businesses and consumers understand the carbon footprints of the products and services they use.

DECC has not made an estimate of the likely reductions in CO_2 emissions or savings to manufacturers arising from the adoption of the Carbon Reduction Label. More information on the scheme can be obtained from the Carbon Trust direct.

Domestic Waste: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has had with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on charges for the collection of household waste. [294451]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and Welsh Assembly Government officials are working closely together on the review of Schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 and intend to consult jointly.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has not had any discussion with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on charges for the collection of household waste.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1006W, on domestic wastes, which local authorities have sought the advice of the Waste and Resources Action Programme on available options for waste incentive schemes to date. [294458]

Dan Norris: General advice on the waste incentive scheme options available was provided by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to a significant number of authorities at meetings which WRAP was invited to attend and in response to individual inquiries. WRAP has not kept a detailed record of all the authorities that have been involved in this preliminary way.

Domestic Waste: Fixed Penalties

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the 2008-09 Flycapture data on fixed penalty notices issued to households for waste offences. [294561]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has commissioned returns from English local authorities on fixed penalty notices issued in 2008-09 for a range of environmental offences, including those relating to waste receptacles. Returns are still outstanding from many local authorities and these are being pursued. Results will be published on the DEFRA website in December.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which the proposals in his Department's consultation document on fairer and better environmental enforcement published in July 2009, will affect the *(a)* frequency and *(b)* level of financial penalties issued to households for offences relating to household waste. [294565]

Dan Norris: The present fairer and better environmental enforcement proposals and consultation do not extend to local authorities, who are responsible for household waste matters. Any proposals to give local authorities powers to use the civil sanctions enabled by the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 would be subject to a further public consultation and separate secondary legislation, which would be debated in Parliament.

The present proposals would give national environmental regulators an alternative to prosecution in cases when enforcement is necessary and proportionate. The proposals would allow Environment Agency, Natural England and Countryside Council for Wales to take businesses and others with a good general approach to regulation out of the criminal courts when enforcement action was needed. However, regulatory advice and guidance would remain the cornerstone of a well graduated and fair enforcement system. The worst cases of non-compliance would continue to be prosecuted. The proposed changes are designed to strengthen incentives to comply and to promote co-operation between regulator and regulated.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme have (i) issued guidance and (ii) allocated funding to local authorities related to audits of the contents of domestic waste receptacles; [294430]

(2) what funding and other support *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to local authorities to undertake surveys of the contents of household waste from specific properties; and what guidance his Department has issued on whether the prior consent of the householder is required. [294455]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has not provided any funding or support to local authorities related to audits of the contents of domestic waste receptacles.

Where the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) supports waste composition surveys, it normally contracts this work out directly. Occasionally, when it is part of a wider project, WRAP provides funding to local authorities to carry out the work. In both cases WRAP requires prior consent to be sought from the householders concerned.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme provided for local authorities in relation to waste (i) collection and (ii) disposal in the most recent year for which figures are available. [294466]

Dan Norris: In 2008-09 DEFRA directly provided £78.2 million in funding to local authorities outside London via the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant. £60 million will be made available to London authorities through the London Waste and Recycling Fund for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. These unringfenced capital grants will be paid to upper tier and unitary authorities to enable them to set up the necessary waste infrastructure to help England meet landfill targets.

DEFRA also provides financial support to local authorities through Private Finance Initiative credits to help accelerate the building of the infrastructure needed to treat residual waste without compromising efforts to minimise waste and increase recycling levels. To date £2.5 billion has been allocated to 37 projects. Further information can be found on DEFRA's website.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) provided a total of £2.68 million to local authorities during 2008-09. The funds were spent on local communications campaigns specifically to improve communications with householders about local recycling services and to promote the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign. WRAP has no remit in relation to waste disposal and has not, therefore, provided any funds to local authorities in relation to it.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's 4Es Model on planning for waste prevention. [294468]

Dan Norris: The 4Es Model was published in "Securing the future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy" (March 2005). This document is available on DEFRA's website.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the circumstances in which municipal waste collectors can refuse to collect household waste from a dwelling. [294556]

Dan Norris: The amendment to section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act, made through the Climate Change Act 2008, provides a single point of reference in legislation for local authorities in order to further clarify the existing Government policy that where residents put out their waste in a way that does not meet the conditions set out in a section 46 notice, authorities are not required to collect it.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether trade waste collected and placed in landfill by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* private sector contractors in a local authority area is reckoned towards that local authority's Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme quota. [294609]

Dan Norris: The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) was set up to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent by local authorities to landfill.

The local authority's LATS quota is based on the biodegradable waste fraction of the overall waste arising for that local authority. Where the local authority collects commercial waste that is included as part of its overall waste arising; waste collected by private waste management companies does not form part of the LATS.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of household waste collected for recycling was *(a)* incinerated and *(b)* disposed of in landfill sites in the latest period for which figures are available. [294611]

Dan Norris: WasteDataFlow is used to obtain data on waste collected by local authorities. However, the data requested are not available due to the nature of the questions asked in WasteDataFlow and the data collected.

In 2007-08 the amount of municipal waste sent to a materials recovery facility for recycling was 1,571,586 tonnes. Of this:

(a) 36,465 tonnes was rejected and incinerated for energy recovery; and

(b) 68, 644 tonnes was rejected and landfilled.

In 2007-08 the estimated total amount of household waste that was rejected for recycling was 126,626 tonnes. This is out of a total of 8,840,960 tonnes of household waste collected for recycling. The rejected tonnages include not only waste sent to a materials recovery facility, but also recycling rejected at the point of collection and materials collected for recycling that were not passed through a materials recovery facility.

Materials are rejected due to contamination or due to them not being recyclable.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent *(a)* assessment has been made and *(b)* research has been commissioned by (i) his Department, (ii) the Waste and Resources Action Programme and (iii) the Environment Agency into the burning of household waste by householders. [294619]

Dan Norris: No specific assessment has been made by DEFRA or the Environment Agency of the level of burning of domestic waste by households in England. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is not responsible for research or policy on backyard burning.

In 2006 DEFRA published a research project to review complaints received by local authorities about bonfire smoke, which advised on the legal and practical remedies available to local authorities and private individuals.

In addition, DEFRA carried out research into emissions of dioxins from the burning of domestic waste in 2006. The review recommended that further scientific research should be carried out to establish what practical measures could be taken to reduce dioxin emissions from bonfires and domestic combustion and, consequently, exposure to dioxins. Further work in estimating dioxin emissions from domestic burning has subsequently been carried out and another research programme is currently being undertaken by DEFRA which will establish a release inventory for dioxins as well as provide information on the most effective approach for carrying out a public awareness campaign educating the public on the impacts of burning garden and domestic waste with regard to dioxin emissions. This research work is due to conclude in 2011.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued to waste collection authorities on charging householders for (i) new or (ii) replacement household wheeled refuse containers. [294628]

Dan Norris: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued any recent guidance to waste collection authorities on their powers under Section 46(3) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned in relation to household waste in the last 18 months. [294652]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's Waste and Resources Evidence Programme (WREP) has just published a major review study to help distil the evidence emerging from research work completed by the Department and other organisations on household waste prevention. In addition, WREP has also commissioned a project looking at approaches for dealing with household hazardous waste and another study investigating waste composition.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report commissioned by his Department with reference *(a)* WR0105 and *(b)* WR0106. [294965]

Dan Norris: DEFRA has received the draft final report for WR0105 'Project REDUCE Monitoring and Evaluation—Developing Tools to Measure Waste Prevention' and the project team is currently completing a finalised version ready for publication. The final report will be made publicly available on DEFRA's website.

The project (WR0106) 'Achieving Household Waste Prevention Through Product Service Systems' is publicly available on DEFRA's website.

Litter: Rural Areas

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Campaign to Protect Rural England on measures to reduce the incidence of littering in rural areas. [294996]

Dan Norris: DEFRA Ministers have met with representatives from the Campaign to Protect Rural England three times in the last year to discuss their campaign, Stop the Drop.

Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what projects funded from the Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund have involved work by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science. [294719]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 21 October 2009]*: Projects which have been funded from the Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund involving work by the Centre of Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science are:

Contract number	*Full title*	*Contract status*	*Start date*	*End date*	*Direct customer*
C2228	Assessment of the rehabilitation of the seabed following Marine Aggregate Dredging—Part II: Cefas ALSF funds/Defra	Completed	12 May 2004	31 March 2007	MEPF-ALSF
C2282	Eastern English Channel large-scale Habitat Mapping (MEPF 04/01): BGS/Cefas ALSF	Completed	14 February 2005	10 March 2008	MEPF-ALSF
C3092	Initial assessment of the scale and in-situ Impact of fishing activities using geophysical data in the Eastern English Channel: Cefas ALSF	Completed	1 September 2007	28 February 2008	MEPF-ALSF
C3101	Assessing Ecosystem health following Marine Aggregate dredging-Defra (ALSF)—linked toC2167	Completed	9 July 2007	31 March 2008	MEPF-ALSF
C3117	Eastern Seabed Channel Acquisition, processing and interpretation of bathymetric XYZ data to produce digital sea bed bathymetry and 3D surface morphology models	Completed	1 October 2007	31 March 2008	British Geological survey
C3309	Distribution of Defra Marine Aggregate Levy. sustainability funds FY 08/09 to FY 10/11: Defra RPD	Current	1 April 2008	31 March 2011	MEPF-ALSF
C3312	A Generic investigation into noise profiles of marine aggregate dredging in relation to the acoustic sensitivity of the marine fauna in UK waters: ALSF	Completed	1 July 2008	31 March 2009	MEPF-ALSF
C3315	Dredging Impacts verified in relation to scientific evidence (DIVERSE): ALSF	Current	1 July 2008	28 February 2011	MEPF-ALSF
C3324	Best Practice Workshop and Guidelines on Aggregate Ecological Assessments: ALSF-MEPF. MEPF 08/P75	Current	1 July 2008	31 March 2010	MEPF/P75
C3325	Effects of aggregate dredging on marine food web structure and function: ALSF-MEPF	Current	1 September 2008	7 December 2010	MEPF-ALSF
C3326	Distribution and intensity of fishing activities in the vicinity of aggregate extraction sites: ALSF MEPF	Current	21 July 2008	31 January 2011	MEPF-ALSF
C3327	Marine Aggregate integrated assessment—a method to quantify ecosystem sustainability ALSF-MEPF	Current	1 October 2008	1 June 2010	MEPF-ALSF
C3328	MEPF 08/02 South Coast regional environmental characterisation (REC) prog—data analysis and interpretation; BGS	Current	1 July 2008	31 March 2010	British Geological survey
C3340	East Coast regional Environmental Characterisation (REC) Programme MEPF 08/04	Current	5 August 2008	28 February 2011	MEPF-ALSF
C3688	Natural variability of REA Regions, their Ecological significance and Sensitivity	Current	1 September 2009	31 December 2010	MEPF-ALSF
C3687	MEPF: Development of national data layers on Inshore fishing: ALSF	Current	15 September 2009	31 December 2010	MEPF-ALSF
C3689	Seabed Restoration: Do the benefits justify the costs?	Current	1 September 2009	31 December 2010	MEPF-ALSF

Source:
Internal CEFAS Management Database Contract

Rural Areas: Grants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether provision for Vital Villages Community Services grants exists following the abolition of the Countryside Agency. [294562]

Dan Norris: Vital Villages was a demonstration grant programme, set up with the aim of identifying innovative approaches that would meet the needs of rural communities. The programme was set up in April 2001 and ran until 1 April 2005.

The scheme was additional to mainstream Government programmes for community support and development, which remain open to both rural and urban communities.

South Downs National Park

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* is planned to be spent on (i) consultation, (ii) organisational set-up, (iii) project management, (iv) communications, (v) planning, (vi) wages, (vii) pensions, (viii) office running and (ix) other costs of the South Downs National Park in the next 12 months. [293991]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The cost of the two public inquiries and a recent hearing totalled £3.26 million. We expect that less than £1 million will be spent on setting up the South Downs National Park Authority in the current financial year. The budgets for future years have yet to be determined.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any existing local authority staff will be made redundant as a result of the establishment of the South Downs National Park. [293992]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is for individual local authorities to decide whether or not to retain staff.

Where a national park authority takes over functions from a local authority then, as happened in the New Forest, it is very probable that the existing staff will have employment rights under either (or both) of: the statutory instrument that establishes the national park authority; and the generic Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) legislation.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has provided to Resources Futures; and for what purposes. [294613]

Dan Norris: DEFRA's Waste and Resources Evidence Programme has commissioned projects from Resource Futures at a total cost of £137,845. The research covers waste growth and the composition of municipal waste.

Since 1 April 2007, the Waste and Resources Action Programme has bought technical services from Resources Futures at a total cost of £1.2 million. These services cover a range of topics, including work with local authorities, the third sector and on evaluating our programmes.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library an example copy of a waste prevention action plan recommended by the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [294618]

Dan Norris: The plans are the property of the local authorities concerned and can be obtained directly from them. The Waste and Resources Action Programme's Waste Prevention Toolkit is a starting point for authorities to develop their own plans, typically working as part of a larger partnership, and taking account of their local circumstances and priorities.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents eligible for maintenance payments via the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission and its predecessor have received no payment for over *(a)* three and *(b)* 10 years. [292041]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents eligible for maintenance payments via the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and its predecessor have received no payment for over (a) three and (b) 10 years. [292041]

The Commission estimates that at the end of June 2009, of the 1,140,400 cases due to receive at least one child maintenance payment in the past three years, no payment had been received from the non-resident parent in 57,250 (or 5%) of these cases. The Commission is not able to provide an estimate on the number of parents eligible for maintenance payments who have not received any payments for the last 10 years.

Some parents will go to great lengths to avoid fulfilling their financial responsibilities to their children. The Child Support Agency has made significant improvements over the last three years increasing the number of cases receiving maintenance by a third. The new enforcement powers set out in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 will give the Commission the tools it needs to further increase compliance.

I am sorry on this occasion I could not be more helpful.

Disability Living Allowance: Fraud

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* amount spent on fraudulent claims for disability living allowance in each of the last four years. [293576]

Helen Goodman: The Department's measurement system for fraud and error does not estimate the number of fraudulent cases over a given period. It does, however, provide an estimate of the average number of fraudulent claims at any one time. Estimates of fraud in disability living allowance were last measured in 2004-05 when the number of fraudulent cases was estimated to be 10,000 cases. There are no estimates for later years.

An estimate for the percentage of fraudulent expenditure has also been produced for 2004-05 and subsequent years by applying the 2004-05 percentage of fraudulent expenditure to the relevant disability living allowance expenditure in each subsequent year. The estimates are in the following table.

Estimate of the amount overpaid due to fraud in disability living allowance

	£ million
2004-05	40
2005-06	40
2006-07	40
2007-08	50
2008-09	50

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individual claims for employment and support allowance were rejected after the individual participated in a work capability assessment up to the end of February 2009; and how many and what proportion of those rejected claimants were moved on to jobseeker's allowance. [291281]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* National level statistics on the Work Capability Assessment covering Great Britain were published on 13 October 2009 and are available via the ONS Publication Hub. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library and be accessed directly on the website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca.asp

Information on movement to Jobseeker's Allowance is not yet available but is expected to become available next year.

Employment and Support Allowance: Birmingham

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of the Birmingham, Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been refused Employment and Support Allowance since October 2008. [291586]

Jim Knight: National level statistics on the Work Capability Assessment covering Great Britain were published on 13 October 2009 and are available via the ONS Publication Hub. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library and can be accessed directly on the website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca.asp

Equivalent information for the Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath constituency is not held centrally. However, equivalent data for Birmingham local authority are in the table.

Employment and support allowance on-flows October 2008 to February 2009 by result of medical assessment—Birmingham local authority

Work capability result	*Volumes*	*Percentage*
Support Group	200	6
Work Related Activity Group	400	10
Fit for Work	1,300	34
Claim closed before assessment complete	1,400	37
Assessment still in progress	500	13

Note:

This data are based on recorded advice from ATOS, rather than the Decision Maker's final determination. The final outcomes of cases may change. This will be further compounded by reconsiderations following additional medical evidence and the outcomes of appeals. Full guidance on the national figures is included in the published statistics referred to above.

Equality 2025

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on the operation of Equality 2025 to date; and how many people Equality 2025 has employed in each year since its inception. [295027]

Jonathan Shaw: Equality 2025 is an advisory non-departmental public body established in response to a recommendation in the 2005 report by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People'. It is sponsored by (but is not part of) the Office for Disability Issues, part of the Department for Work and Pensions. The advisory group is made up of 19 disabled people appointed to collect and feed the views of disabled people across the United Kingdom into Government policymaking and service design.

Equality 2025 was established in December 2006 and is funded by the Office for Disability Issues. Its total expenditure for the periods 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been £1,391,059.

Equality 2025 has not employed any permanent or temporary staff since its establishment, but it does receive secretariat support from the Office for Disability Issues.

Housing Benefit: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the policy of her Department is on the payment of housing benefit to Travellers renting an unauthorised pitch in respect of which planning permission has not been granted; and whether her Department has issued guidance to local authorities on this matter. [294967]

Helen Goodman: We have not issued any specific guidance on this subject; any claim for housing benefit in these circumstances would be dealt with in the usual way, which would include looking at whether there was a liability for rent.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the North East Fife constituency had been claiming jobseeker's allowance for *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between 12 months and two years and *(d)* more than two years on the latest date for which information is available. [293975]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated October 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in North East Fife constituency had been claiming jobseeker's allowance for (a) less then six months, (b) between six and 12 months, (c) between 12 months and 2 years and (d) more than two years on the latest date for which information is available. (293975)

Table 1, attached, shows the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for people, aged 16 or over resident in the North East Fife constituency on 10 September 2009, broken down by the duration of the claim.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance resident in North East Fife constituency by duration of claim (10 September 2009)

Duration	*Number*
Up to 26 weeks	740
Over 26 weeks up to 52 weeks	210
Over 52 weeks up to 104 weeks	80
Over 104 weeks	5

Note:
Data rounded to nearest 5.
Source:
Jobcentre plus administrative system

Office for Disability Issues: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are employed by the Office for Disability Issues; and how much has been spent on its operation in each year since its inception. [295026]

Jonathan Shaw: The Office for Disability Issues employs 78 staff. Taking account of part-time workers this figure equates to a staff in post figure of 75.18.

The Office for Disability Issues is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions. This funding is made up of an allocation for administration and programme. The total amount spent each year by the Office for Disability Issues since its inception is shown in the following table:

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total spend 2005-09*
Total spend on Administration	1,811,762	2,887,502	5,761,253	5,362,035	15,822,552
Total spend on Office for Disability Issues Programme	4,245,283	1,815,043	2,600,995	2,791,698	11,453,019
Total spend on Equality 2025 Programme	0	353,974	531,085	506,000	1,391,059
Total yearly spend by the Office for Disability Issues	6,057,045	5,056,519	8,893,333	8,659,733	28,666,630

Source:
Office for Disability Issues end of year management accounts 2005-2009.

Poverty: Children

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is introducing to meet the Government's target of eradicating child poverty by 2020; what her latest estimate is of the likelihood of the target being achieved; and if she will make a statement. [294302]

Helen Goodman: The Government believe that, for most families, work is the best route out of poverty. The Department for Work and Pensions is increasing support for lone parents and disabled parents, and testing out new support for second earners, to help them find, remain and progress in work. This support takes the form of both pre-employment support and in-work support.

The latest statistics for 2007-08 show that 500,000 children have been lifted out of poverty since 1997; measures announced in and since Budget 2007 are estimated to lift a further 500,000 children out of poverty. The Child Poverty Bill is currently progressing through Parliament which will enshrine in law the commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Unemployment: Young People

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she plans to take to assist under-25 year olds who have been unemployed for over 12 months. [290986]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 September 2009]:* As part of the Department's commitment to support people into work, substantial investment has been made since November 2008 to offer extra support to jobseekers to help them find work at all stages of their claim.

An enhanced offer to all jobseekers at day one of their claim includes targeted group sessions in jobsearch techniques, access to Local Employment Partnership vacancies and help with the costs of getting back to work through the Adviser Discretionary Fund.

At the six-month point of their claim, all jobseekers now receive a substantial package of extra support including access to recruitment subsidies, work-focused training places, volunteering opportunities and support to become self-employed.

We have also targeted significant resource on people under age 25 in recognition of the particular challenges young people face during a recession. These measures are designed to prevent, wherever possible, young people experiencing prolonged spells of unemployment early in their working lives.

On 29 July, the Government launched a campaign called Backing Young Britain, calling on businesses, charities and Government bodies to create more opportunities for young people, such as internships, mentoring support and coaching. As part of this campaign, all young people will receive additional adviser support and can be put forward for a work trial from day one of unemployment. We are also working with businesses to increase graduate internships and to develop work experience and mentoring support for young jobseekers.

In early 2010, young people will be able to benefit from the Young Person's Guarantee which guarantees a job, work-focused training, or meaningful activity to all 18 to 24-year-olds before they have reached the 12-month stage of their claim to jobseeker's allowance. This offer will become mandatory from April 2010.

The Future Jobs Fund, one key element of the Young Person's Guarantee, will create at least 100,000 jobs for young people aged between 18 and 24. The first jobs will be available from October 2009 for customers approaching the 10-month point in their claim.

If young people remain on benefits at the 12-month stage, they will be referred to the provider-led Flexible New Deal programme (in phase 1 areas) and will benefit from work-focused support, tailored to the individual's needs and local labour market requirements.

In phase 2 areas at the 12-month stage, jobseekers will be participating in one of the New Deal Options. If they remain unemployed following this programme, jobseekers will move into the Follow-Through Stage of the New Deal and receive more frequent, targeted adviser support.

Help is also available for 16 and 17-year-olds. The September Guarantee was introduced in 2007 to ensure that every young person leaving compulsory education at 16 receives a suitable offer of a place in learning. It was extended to 17-year-olds in 2008. By the end of 2008, this guarantee helped to support an increase in the proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds participating in learning to 88 per cent., the highest ever rate. The proportion of 16 and 17-year-olds not in employment, education or training (NEET) fell for the third consecutive year, and only 5.2 per cent. of 16-year-olds were NEET, the lowest rate for more than a decade.

Furthermore, the Government are delivering record numbers of apprenticeships in England and we expect 250,000 people to start apprenticeships this year.

WALES

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of procurement contracts his Department awarded to small businesses in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08, *(c)* 2008-09 and *(d)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293232]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office uses the Ministry of Justice procurement systems and the Office of Government Commerce on-line procurement services.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the date on which the Electoral Complaints Commission in Afghanistan is expected to report its findings in respect of the recent presidential election. [293679]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Electoral Complaints Commission reported the findings of its investigation to the Independent Election Commission (IEC) on 19 October 2009. The IEC announced the final result of the presidential elections on 20 October 2009.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* EU, *(b)* UN and *(c)* NATO counterparts on the conduct of the Afghanistan elections. [293820]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had recent discussions with a range of partners, including US and EU counterparts and the Secretary General of NATO, about the process and conduct of the Afghan elections. The international community continues to support the Independent Election Commission and Electoral Complaints Commission's investigation.

British Overseas Territories: Arms Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has held to discuss tackling arms trafficking in UK Overseas Territories in the last 12 months. [293454]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last 12 months my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held any specific discussions on combating arms trafficking in the British Overseas Territories.

Burma

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness against objectives of EU sanctions on Burma. [294540]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following the sentence imposed on Aung San Suu Kyi on 11 August 2009, the EU put in place further sanctions intended to specifically target the Burmese regime's economic interests, as well as imposing a travel ban on those members of the judiciary responsible for the verdict. These measures came into force on 14 August 2009. The fact that new EU trade and investment is negligible is an indication of the success of this policy.

Moreover, these sanctions leave the regime in no doubt about our determination to see real democracy established and human rights respected in Burma. Their objective is to target those individuals and entities that are most closely linked to the regime's misrule, rather than punishing the Burmese population as a whole.

Burma: Arms Trade

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what UK policy is on proposals for a UN arms embargo on Burma; and if he will make a statement. [294673]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following the verdict in the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and Security Council members calling for a voluntary, global arms embargo against Burma.

The EU and the US have had an arms embargo in place for many years. A UK attempt to secure a non-binding Security Council resolution in 2007 was blocked. We will however continue to work through the UN, the EU and bilaterally to put maximum pressure on the Burmese regime.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent proposals for a UN Commission of Inquiry into human rights violations in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [294674]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of several calls for the establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate human rights in Burma. While there are a number of ways by which such a commission could be established, all would require a level of international consensus on Burma that is not presently achievable.

In the past two years, our efforts have helped to secure unprecedented UN Security Council action on Burma, in the form of two strongly worded Presidential Statements. We are also active in pursuing strong resolutions in both the Human Rights Council and at the General Assembly. We fully support the efforts of UN Special Rapporteur, Tomas Quintana. His work on human rights abuses in Burma is crucial to holding the regime to account and we have urged the Burmese authorities to grant him the necessary access.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of human rights violations in eastern Burma in the last 12 months; and what representations he has made to the Burmese Government on this matter. [294539]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is deeply concerned about the human rights situation in eastern Burma and reports earlier in the year of renewed fighting between the Karen National Union and the Democratic Karen Buddhist army, who are supported by the Burmese army.

Attacks carried out by the Burmese army and their Karen client organisations on civilians in Karen State have been particularly intense in the last two years. We have repeatedly called for a halt to such offensives and have urged both the military regime and the Karen National Union to intensify their efforts to find a peaceful settlement that will bring about a permanent end to the conflict.

On 11 June 2009, the Czech Presidency of the EU issued a statement calling for an end to the hostilities. It expressed particular concern about the humanitarian impact of the conflict. We fully support this call and our embassy in Rangoon continues to monitor the situation closely. Our embassy most recently raised human rights issues with the Burmese authorities on 18 October 2009.

Chagos Islands

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to publish in full his Department's response to the European Court of Human Rights on the application made by the Chagos Islanders. [294108]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend, the then Minister for Europe, Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead on 12 October 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA3. Copies of the Government's observations on the application have been placed in the Library of the House.

Children: Kidnapping

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding has been allocated to his Department's Child Abduction Unit in each of the last five years. [294383]

Chris Bryant: A dedicated Child Abduction Section was set up in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Consular Directorate in 2003 in response to the growing number of parental child abduction cases. There are currently five staff in the section. In addition to staff costs, the following funding amounts were allocated to projects over the last five financial years:

	(£)
2009-10[1]	£102,006
2008-09	£115,200
2007-08	£162,250
2006-07	£66,980
2005-06	[2]—

[1] Current year

[2] There was no specific funding allocation for Child Abduction Section

China: World Expo

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1259W, on the Shanghai World Expo, when he expects to finalise plans for ministerial attendance at the event. [294382]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are fully committed to Shanghai Expo 2010, which offers the UK a unique opportunity to advance our very broad objectives in China: from trade and industry to climate change, science and technology to tourism, and education to financial services. Plans for ministerial attendance during the six months of the Expo will be decided upon nearer to the opening in May 2010.

Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations on the recommendations of Georgios Lordos on a possible property settlement in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293701]

Chris Bryant: The Government have received no such representations.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what research his Department has evaluated into the number of Greek Cypriots who in respect of a settlement in Cyprus would wish for *(a)* restitution, *(b)* compensation and *(c)* property exchange; if he will consider the merits of allocating funds to such research; and if he will make a statement. [293702]

Chris Bryant: The Government have made no such evaluation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of relinquishing the UK's commitment under the Treaty of Guarantee for Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293707]

Chris Bryant: The leaders of the two communities are continuing to discuss the issue of security and guarantees. The UK will not be an obstacle to a solution.

Cyprus: Green Line

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of people who have crossed the Green Line in Cyprus since 30 April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [293704]

Chris Bryant: The Government have not estimated this information. However, according to figures provided by the Republic of Cyprus and published in the European Commission's Green Line Report, 730,310 Greek Cypriots crossed from the south to the north of Cyprus and 1,287,126 Turkish Cypriots crossed from the north to the south of Cyprus during the period 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/
turkish_cypriot_community/glr_report_en.pdf

The same source reports that a further 739,097 non-Cypriot EU citizens and third-country nationals crossed the line during this period.

These figures do not include border crossings within the UK's Sovereign Base Areas, for which data are not collected.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value of cross-Green Line trade in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293705]

Chris Bryant: The Government do not collect any information on the volume or value of cross-Green Line trade in Cyprus. However, according to figures provided by the Republic of Cyprus and published in the European Commission's Green Line Report, the total value of goods that crossed the Green Line was €6,111,030 from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009, compared to €4,473,408 for the previous reporting period:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/
turkish_cypriot_community/glr_report_en.pdf

Cyprus: Northern Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* recent discussions he has had with (i) the government of Cyprus and (ii) the administration in northern Cyprus and *(b)* recent assessment he has made of implementation of confidence-building measures in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293708]

Chris Bryant: The Government follow the Cyprus settlement question very closely and have frequent discussions both with the Government of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leadership on this topic. They support confidence building measures as an important means of developing trust between the two communities. A number of measures, for example on ambulance crossings and restoration of cultural heritage, have already been implemented. We hope to see further confidence building measures being implemented in the coming months.

Cyprus: Turkey

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of settlers from mainland Turkey who are resident in the north of Cyprus who took residence in that region *(a)* following the invasion of Cyprus in 1974 and *(b)* since the referendum in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [293697]

Chris Bryant: The Government have made no such estimate.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value of trade between Turkey and Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293706]

Chris Bryant: The Government do not hold any information on trade between Turkey and Cyprus. The most recent publicly available figures are from the Turkish Foreign Trade Under-Secretariat in 2007. Exports from Turkey to the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) equalled US Dollars ($)1.394 million, and imports from RoC to Turkey equalled $8,615 million. Volume of trade equalled $10.01 million.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the UN Security Council on the implementation of UN Resolution 1820 in Democratic Republic of Congo; and what recent progress has been made on such implementation. [294542]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is a key supporter of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1820, which deals with the issue of sexual violence in conflict situations. We work hard to mainstream its provisions into the mandate of the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUC). It is referred to in MONUC's mandate, due for renewal in December 2009.

The UK recently co-sponsored UNSCR 1888 (revision of 1820 on women and armed conflict). In addition, the UK continues to push for legal action against five senior Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) commanders accused of committing sexual violence, named by the UN Security Council during their visit in May 2009.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Democratic Republic of Congo on the prosecution of allegations of gender-based violence by members of the Congolese armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [294543]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador in Kinshasa has repeatedly called for members of the armed forces guilty of human rights abuses to be brought to justice. The UN Security Council, including the UK permanent representative, raised this issue in May with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) President Kabila and DRC Prime Minister Muzito. Kabila gave a speech to the nation on Independence Day in June this year, promising renewed efforts to ensure "total security" for the population, including ending sexual and gender-based violence.

Military courts in Rutshuru have since prosecuted several cases against some Congolese national army (FARDC) officers for crimes including rape. The UK continues to push for legal action against five senior FARDC commanders accused of committing sexual violence, named by the UN Security Council during their visit. We will continue to stress the importance of ensuring the implementation of the UN Mission to the DRC (MONUC)'s policy of withdrawing support from FARDC units implicated in serious human rights abuses.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the number of people who have been displaced in Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army since the beginning of 2009; which countries have received such people; and if he will make a statement. [294536]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: According to a recent report by the UN Secretary General, 226,000 people have been displaced in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a result of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army since the beginning of 2009.

We are aware that many displaced people from the DRC have moved to South Sudan. We are also aware that some refugees may have fled to Uganda and the Central African Republic.

We strongly condemn the atrocities committed by the Lord's Resistance Army in the northern DRC and throughout the Great Lakes Region of Africa. They have committed appalling human rights abuses against the civilian population, including mass executions and abductions. The UN Mission to the DRC, MONUC, has increased its presence in the north of the country, after being urged to do so by the UK and other governments. MONUC is providing logistical support to humanitarian organisations, which are providing relief to the civilian population.

We also strongly urge co-ordination between the different peacekeeping missions in that region of Africa.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* hosting and *(b)* supporting the involvement of young British people in (i) EU, (ii) Commonwealth and (iii) UN activities. [293805]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Embassies: EU Countries

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what revenue was received at British Embassies from Overseas Passport fees in each country of the European Union in each of the last five years. [294172]

Chris Bryant: The following table lists the revenue received at our Missions from Overseas Passport fees in each country of the EU in each of the last five years, pro-rated based on accession dates.

£

Country	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Grand total*
Austria	37,757	69,567	89,472	123,835	94,071	414,702
Belgium	252,721	257,358	304,304	389,535	34	1,203,952
Bulgaria	0	0	0	5,000	13,661	18,661
Cyprus	321,090	390,832	520,032	600,710	681,560	2,514,224
Czech Republic	40,226	51,840	72,170	80,215	68,429	312,880
Denmark	101,149	123,332	143,663	184,147	173,646	725,937
Estonia	3,057	3,117	5,038	5,460	4,387	21,059
Finland	22,173	21,348	35,768	46,905	42,736	168,530
France	821,553	1,136,118	1,616,805	2,061,027	2,706,459	8,341,962
Germany	935,027	957,092	1,383,448	1,683,959	1,654,141	6,613,667

Country	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	£ *Grand total*
Greece	138,361	167,218	243,614	288,525	285,333	1,123,051
Holland	323,717	404,678	490,141	608,304	322,955	2,149,795
Hungary	25,545	31,155	37,740	49,399	50,027	193,866
Ireland	614,002	644,937	880,563	1,057,212	1,055,696	4,252,410
Italy	268,705	333,745	409,181	491,835	454,298	1,957,764
Latvia	1,968	3,503	4,717	5,481	5,402	21,071
Luxembourg	42,292	343	548	407	117	43,707
Lithuania	892	2,633	2,249	4,170	2,905	12,849
Malta	42,204	57,117	75,004	85,796	97,130	357,251
Poland	28,020	40,549	41,288	57,431	52,624	219,912
Portugal	147,115	155,024	199,414	176,044	9,488	687,085
Romania	0	0	0	6,071	23,523	29,594
Slovakia	3,878	6,862	10,120	11,368	9,377	41,605
Slovenia	2,058	1,421	3,602	4,479	3,710	15,270
Spain	1,148,209	1,450,790	1,986,662	2,663,752	2,539,259	9,788,672
Sweden	100,120	125,729	178,371	206,218	199,432	809,870
Grand total	5,421,839	6,436,308	8,733,914	10,896,885	10,550,400	42,039,345

EU Institutions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for institutional changes in the European Union. [294000]

Chris Bryant: The Swedish EU presidency wants to see the Lisbon treaty enter into force as soon as possible, to bring into effect the treaty's institutional reforms which will improve EU decision-making, transparency and accountability, and the effectiveness of EU action around the world. This is a priority that the UK shares.

Following the Irish referendum endorsement of the Lisbon treaty on 2 October 2009 and signature of the Polish instrument of ratification by President Kaczynski on 10 October 2009, 26 member states have now completed their national processes to ratify the treaty. We hope that the Czech ratification will follow shortly.

EU Law

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which powers ceded to EU level under the Treaty establishing the European Communities and the Treaty on European Union have subsequently been returned to the UK under the principle of subsidiarity. [293798]

Chris Bryant: The principle of subsidiarity is not a mechanism for "returning powers" to the member states, but for determining whether or not Community action should be set in motion.

The member states, through the EU treaties, set the EU certain tasks and give it the powers to achieve those tasks. Article 5 of the treaty establishing the European Community states that, in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Community shall take action, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the member states and can therefore, by reason of the scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved by the Community.

Further guidelines for assessing whether these requirements are met are laid down by the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Protocol also requires the Commission to justify the relevance of any of its legislative proposals with regard to the principle of subsidiarity.

The Lisbon treaty would strengthen the role of national Parliaments in EU decision-making, so that for the first time national parliaments could challenge draft EU legislation on subsidiarity grounds. It is for Parliament to decide how to exercise its rights under these procedures.

EU: Financial Institutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the General Affairs Council on the Swedish presidency's agenda for banking and financial regulation and shareholding in the EU. [294363]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the European Commission's proposals on financial regulation and supervision with his counterparts at the General Affairs Council (GAC) of 27 July 2009 and 14 September 2009. EU member states are agreed on the necessity of making swift progress on the package, with a view to reaching agreement by the December European Council under the EU Swedish presidency.

The GAC has not discussed the EU Shareholder Rights Directive.

European Union: Reform

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Czech Government on prospects for constitutional reform in the EU. [294699]

Chris Bryant: I have recently discussed EU institutional issues with my Czech counterpart as part of my introductory contacts with my EU colleagues on issues of mutual interest.

France: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of France on the cost to British businesses and tourists of blockades of Channel ports. [293876]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Paris and our consulate in Lille have both raised issues relating to the blockades with the French authorities.

The Minister of State, Department for Transport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Tooting (Mr. Khan), also raised concerns with his French counterpart during the blockade.

Gaza: Borders

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to seek *(a)* the ending of restrictions on access to Gaza imposed by the Israeli authorities and *(b)* to ensure that international law is observed in that area. [293990]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu on 15 October 2009. He clearly expressed the UK's concerns regarding the current situation in Gaza and urged unimpeded access for humanitarian aid.

Although there is no permanent physical Israeli presence in Gaza, Israel maintains a significant degree of control, including control of Gaza's borders, airspace and territorial waters. The UK does not consider that Israel's obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention 1949 have ceased to apply in respect of Gaza and we continue to make this clear.

Ilois: Resettlement

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 605-06W, on the British Indian Ocean Territory, who the interveners are in the case. [294047]

Chris Bryant: The interveners in the case of Chagos Islanders *v.* the UK at the European Court of Human Rights are Human Rights Watch and Minority Rights Group International.

India

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of India on the situation of the Chin refugees in Mizoram state; and if he will make a statement. [294670]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary are in regular contact with their Indian counterparts on the subject of Burma.

The UK believes that the status quo in Burma is inherently unstable and that the case of the Chin refugees is just one example of the Burmese regime's repressive policies towards the country's ethnic groups.

We also remain concerned by the effects of a rat infestation in Chin state during the last two years and the plight of the Chin refugees in India.

In response to an assessment undertaken by the UN, the Department for International Development has approved funding of £880,000 for emergency aid delivered through the UN Development Programme, the World Food Programme and their local partners. About 65,000 people have benefited from this aid. We are keeping the situation under close review.

India: Religious Freedom

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of India on reported persecution of Christians in Orissa state; and if he will make a statement. [293668]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has not discussed the situation of Christians in Orissa State with the Government of India. When the violence perpetrated against these communities occurred in 2008, my noble Friend, the former Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch Brown, raised the issue with his Indian counterpart. Our high commission in New Delhi continues to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Indian authorities about human rights and issues that affect all India's minority groups.

Iran: Overseas Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1WS, on delegated legislation (counter terrorism), if he will make it his policy to seek European Union sanctions requiring the financial sectors in EU member states to cease all business with the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines; and if he will make a statement. [293788]

David Miliband: The measures taken by the Treasury under the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 against Bank Mellat and the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines was used specifically to mitigate the risks posed to the UK national interest by activity in Iran that facilitates the development or production of nuclear weapons. Where the Government identify such activities, they are committed to acting to curtail them.

We are clear that if Iran does not engage seriously in negotiations to restore the international community's confidence in its nuclear programme, multilateral sanctions will be required. We are working closely with other EU member states to ensure that the EU is in a position to enact measures if this should prove necessary. At the present, the content of this work must remain confidential, but I will inform the House when it is possible to discuss these measures in more detail.

Iran: Religious Freedom

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the human rights situation of the Jewish community in Iran since July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [293293]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The situation of the Jewish community in Iran has long been of concern to us. Its members have suffered discrimination under the Islamic Republic: for example, Iranian Jews are barred from running for President, and from a number of professions, such as the armed forces. President Ahmadinejad's repeated denials of the Holocaust—most recently at the UN General Assembly in September—only serve to increase our concern.

We have been disturbed by the Iranian authorities' response to the protests that followed the disputed June 2009 presidential election, and in particular by the death and imprisonment sentences handed down in recent days. One of those convicted was the Jewish teenager, Yaghoghil Shaolian. He has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison. We are seeking more information about his case, as well as those of the other defendants, and will raise our concerns with the Iranian authorities, since those convicted and sentenced appear to have been denied a fair trial.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Kenya on the missed interim deadline for the establishment of a local tribunal to try those accused of orchestrating the violence which followed the elections in that country in December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [294671]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is concerned that no action has been taken on bringing to justice thoie accused of orchestrating Kenya's post-election violence in 2007, neither by a special tribunal nor referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC). With our EU partners and other like-minded countries we are continuing to make clear that credible action is necessary.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary encouraged Kenya's reform process, including tackling impunity and post-election violence, during his meeting with Prime Minister Odinga in London last July. Since then my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for International Development and the former Minister of State for Africa have also encouraged the Kenyan Government to establish a credible tribunal to investigate and prosecute those responsible.

The Government support the role being played by Kofi Annan and endorses his proposal that the ICC continue its discussions with the Kenyan Government to achieve justice. We continue to believe action on impunity is needed to prevent future violence and to send a strong message that Kenyans will not tolerate violence.

Maritime Navigation

Mr. Liddington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the Government to ratify the 2005 Protocol to the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation; and if he will make a statement. [293139]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 15 October 2009]:* The Government remain committed to ratifying the protocol which we signed in January 2007, although we do not yet have a firm timetable for introduction of the required Bill into Parliament.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to seek endorsement by the United Nations Security Council of the recommendations for action contained in the report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict. [294027]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 20 October 2009, *Official Report,* column 762, the report

> "did not do enough to recognise Israel's right to self-defence but.... did raise serious issues that democratic governments should address through ... [a] full and independent inquiry".

Given our concerns about the report, we will not be seeking its endorsement by the UN Security Council. But we will continue with our international partners to condemn Hamas' use of terrorism and press Israel to conduct a proper independent inquiry.

Middle East: Gas

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the proposed agreement between British Gas and the Israel Electric Corporation to purchase gas from the Gaza Marine Field; and if he will make a statement. [293092]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not received any recent representations on this issue.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in restarting negotiations on the Middle East Peace Process; and if he will make a statement. [293785]

David Miliband: The US Administration, from the President down, have made clear their commitment to restarting negotiations and continue to work towards that goal. We are offering them our full support, as I made clear to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 11 October 2009. While significant obstacles undoubtedly remain, the alternatives to credible negotiations towards a two-state solution are far worse.

NATO: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his NATO counterparts on the involvement of young people in the UK in NATO activities. [293809]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with his North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) counterparts on this issue.

NATO is currently in the process of producing its new Strategic Concept, which will set the Alliance's direction for the coming years. We support the Secretary General's efforts to make this as consultative as possible. That includes setting up an online discussion forum through which members of the public, including young people in the UK, can give their views on the future priorities of the Alliance. It can be found at:

http://natostratcon.info/forum/

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also supports the work of the Atlantic Council UK which has recently set up a Youth Chapter and will begin a schools programme next month designed to increase awareness among young people in this country of the important work NATO does.

Through our contributions to NATO's civil budget we also support the work of the Alliance's Public Diplomacy division, which hosts a number of youth events. These include youth summits held in the margins of NATO's annual summits, the most recent of which took place in April.

Northern Cyprus

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* area and *(b)* proportion of Greek Cypriot-owned land in northern Cyprus that has been (i) sold by the administration in northern Cyprus and (ii) developed by Turkish Cypriots (A) following the invasion of Cyprus in 1974 and (B) since the referendum in 2004; and if he will make a statement. [293696]

Chris Bryant: The Government have made no such estimates.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the population of northern Cyprus constituted by *(a)* Turkish Cypriots and *(b)* Turkish settlers; and if he will make a statement. [293703]

Chris Bryant: The Government have made no such estimate.

Northern Cyprus: Economic Situation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of the economy in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [293698]

Chris Bryant: The current situation hinders the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot economy. We welcome the EU's commitment to support the development of the Turkish Cypriot community through financial aid and trade liberalisation. However, only an agreed settlement can provide the Turkish Cypriots with the full benefits of EU membership.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to encourage the Pakistani Government to repeal laws which discriminate against Christians. [293658]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK supports freedom of religion and condemns persecution because of faith or religious belief. We view the difficult situation facing religious minorities with concern and regularly raise human rights concerns both bilaterally with the Government of Pakistan and together with our EU partners.

Alongside our EU partners the UK continues to encourage the Government of Pakistan to repeal or amend the blasphemy laws to reduce the misuse of legislation to discriminate against minority groups, including Christians. In December 2008 the EU called upon the Government of Pakistan to promote tolerance, to effectively protect freedom of belief and expression, and to reform discriminatory laws such as the blasphemy laws. In August 2009 the EU also raised the attacks on Christians in Gojra and Koiran in Punjab.

We continue to encourage Pakistan to fulfil it commitments under the UN Human Rights Council. During the last Periodic Review in May 2008 we secured a commitment from the Government of Pakistan that checks would be introduced to regulate investigations into allegations of blasphemy that affect minority groups.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on reconciliation talks between Hamas and Fatah; and if he will make a statement. [293784]

David Miliband: The UK has made clear its support for Egyptian-sponsored efforts to build a non-partisan, technocratic Palestinian Government, which would be capable of working productively with the international community.

Papua: Violence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the upsurge of violence in West Papua; and if he will make a statement. [292334]

Chris Bryant: There has been an increase in sporadic violent incidents in the Indonesian province of Papua over the last six months. There was an initial upsurge around the time of the April 2009 parliamentary elections, primarily in Puncak Jaya and Jayawijaya districts and Nabire and Abepura towns. There have been further incidents over the last three months in Mimika district in which an Australian national and a number of Indonesian police officers were killed. According to our embassy contacts, the Indonesian policing response to these incidents is generally considered to have been measured.

We recognise that real challenges remain in Papua. Our ambassador visited Papua last month and discussed these issues with the Indonesian authorities. He emphasised the need to fully and transparently investigate any allegations of human rights abuses.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the security situation in the refugee camps along the Chad-Sudan border, particularly for women and girls; and if he will make a statement. [294678]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The security situation along the Chad-Sudan border is of concern. The UK strongly supports both the UN peacekeeping force, MINURCAT, which helps to protect refugee camps in eastern Chad, and the joint African Union-UN Peacekeeping mission (UNAMID) which helps to protect civilians in Darfur.

UK officials met with the UN Special Representative for the United Nations Mission in Central African Republic and Chad last month and discussed sexual and gender based violence as well as security issues in Eastern Chad.

The UK led on the renewal of UNAMID's mandate in July of this year, which focuses UNAMID on a number of key tasks, including protection of civilians. The renewed mandate also specifically tasks the UN Secretary-General with developing a comprehensive strategy for providing protection to women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's commitment to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan is; and what personnel the UK has trusted in support of this commitment. [292432]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK believes the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is the foundation of future peace and stability in Sudan. The UK was one of the witnesses to the signing of the CPA in 2005 and we are committed to its full implementation, including the referendum on self-determination for South Sudan in January 2011.

Ministers are closely engaged in leading the UK's efforts in Sudan. My hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for International Development visited Sudan earlier this month and will be meeting with both parties in North and South Sudan to urge them to accelerate implementation of the CPA.

The UK has a strong Government team working on Sudan, led by the UK Special Representative for Sudan, together with our ambassador in Khartoum. We also fund Sir Derek Plumbly as Chairman of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), the organisation in Sudan charged with monitoring implementation of the CPA.

DFID has a major programme of development assistance to Sudan, with a budget of £115 million for 2009-10, and we provide significant support to both UN missions in Sudan, including deployment of UK military officers.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan in its role as a co-signatory to the Agreement. [294538]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK believes the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) is the foundation of future peace and stability in Sudan and was one of the witnesses to the signing of the CPA in 2005. We are committed to its full implementation, including the referendum on self-determination for South Sudan in January 2011.

The UK has been working closely with partners, including the US and its Special Envoy to Sudan, General Gration, to urge both the National Congress Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement to make urgent progress on the outstanding CPA milestones.

My hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development visited Sudan earlier this month and urged both parties in north and south to ensure that the remaining issues are resolved, including preparations for the elections next year and referendum in 2011. He also underlined the importance that the UK attaches to free and fair elections.

The UK has worked actively to ensure that the decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in July over the boundary of the Abyei area is accepted by both parties. Implementation of the decision is now progressing slowly and we continue to urge timely and peaceful progress. We are concerned that the broader north-south border demarcation process is stalled and have pressed both parties to resolve the remaining areas of contention.

The UK is also working to ensure that critical post-referendum issues, such as wealth-sharing and citizenship rights, are addressed by both parties. These need to be agreed by north and south in advance of the referendum, whatever its outcome, to help ensure that the decision is peaceful. We are supporting work through Chatham House in this area.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on measures to strengthen the Assessment and Evaluation Committee on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [294669]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK strongly supports the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) in Sudan and the work it undertakes to monitor implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

We secured the appointment of Sir Derek Plumbly, a retired UK diplomat, as Chair of the AEC in March 2008 and Sir Derek has worked actively to strengthen the role of the AEC. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development met with Sir Derek during his visit to Sudan last week.

The AEC has been active and instrumental in delivering progress on the CPA: senior representatives from both the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and the National Congress Party sit on the AEC, with a number of members and observers drawn from the witnesses to the Agreement, and this has provided a forum for open dialogue on the various CPA issues. There are a number of AEC Working Groups that address the various issues, including Power Sharing, Wealth Sharing, Security and the Three Areas.

The UK is active in both the AEC plenary meetings and all of its working groups. We continue to work to support the AEC and ensure that it continues to play a central role in implementation of the CPA.

Telecommunications

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to *(a)* the Government of Turkey, *(b)* the Government of Cyprus and *(c)* the administration in Northern Cyprus on improving communications across the Green Line in respect of *(a)* the routing of and *(b)* charges for mobile telephone and internet services. [293700]

Chris Bryant: It is clear that the separate telecommunications systems that exist on either side of the Green Line inhibit cost-effective communication between north and south. The Government would welcome any initiatives that would enhance communication between the two communities. We continue to discuss this issue and possible confidence building measures with both communities.

Temple Mount

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of stones being thrown at a group of Christian tourists entering the site of the Temple Mount on 27 September 2009; what recent discussions he has had with the Palestinian Authority on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [293288]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are very concerned by the recent tensions and clashes in Jerusalem. We continue to call on all sides to refrain from proactive action. This holy city is important to Israelis and Palestinians, and to people of three great faiths. Incitement from any quarter does not serve the cause of peace, and must stop.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sources of illicit funding for the Taliban his Department has identified other than that derived from the narcotics trade; and if he will make a statement. [293787]

David Miliband: The illicit narcotics trade continues to provide a significant source of income for the Taliban. Other sources of funds are foreign donations, local contributions, illegitimate taxes, ransom for kidnapping, and extortion and smuggling. We are working with our international partners, and through established mechanisms like the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 sanctions regime, to identify and eliminate the Taliban's access to these funding sources.

Treaty of Lisbon

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to hold a referendum on UK ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [293653]

Chris Bryant: No.

Uganda

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of UK policy towards Uganda of any discovery of new oilfields in that country. [294849]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Oil companies operating in Uganda have announced significant new discoveries this year in the Albertine Rift Valley region in Western Uganda. Technical and financial challenges remain, but current projections suggest that Uganda could become an oil producing nation within a few years. Oil resources could, if properly managed, help to strengthen Uganda's economy and development prospects.

The UK has urged the Government of Uganda to design and implement sound and transparent strategies for harnessing oil resources that support peaceful economic and political development.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Uganda on the subject of refugees from Sudan in that country. [294850]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the status of the peace negotiations with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is; what recent reports he has received of countries where the LRA is active; and if he will make a statement. [292433]

Chris Bryant: The Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) agreed a peace settlement, the Final Peace Agreement (FPA), in April 2008 after almost two years of negotiations mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan. However the LRA has yet to honour its commitment to sign the final peace agreement.

The LRA are known to be operating in Southern Sudan, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Government regularly discuss LRA activity with the Government of Uganda, and stress the importance of both continued regional cooperation to deal with the threat and protecting civilian populations from LRA attacks.

At the recent UN General Assembly Ministerial week, my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Mr. Ivan Lewis) discussed the LRA with Ugandan Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa. Our posts in Kampala, Juba, Khartoum, Yaounde and Kinshasa continue to monitor the situation closely, and have raised the issue with other interested parties, including the UN.

UN Security Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish the papers submitted by the Government to the meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council held in London on 3 and 4 September. [294838]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK conference considered confidence building, verification and compliance challenges associated with achieving further progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The conference was the first time that senior policy-makers, military officials and technical experts from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (P5) had met to discuss such issues. The P5 agreed that the conference would be held behind closed doors to facilitate full and frank discussion. The P5 issued a statement summarising the discussions after the conference.

UN: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on involvement of young people from the UK in UN activities. [293806]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We strongly welcome interest from British young people on discussions with UN and other counterparts and encourage their involvement in appropriate activities. We are also very active on this issue in London. For example last year my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary hosted a reception for the UN Association's Young Professionals Network (YPN). The YPN brings together young professionals in their twenties and thirties who have a passion for international affairs and who support a strong role for the UN in responding to global challenges. A similar reception will be held in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) later this month.

We are also in close contact with the various Model UN groupings, and representatives from the FCO attend (and speak) at many of their conferences. We are able to provide small amounts of funding to allow these events to take place.

We regularly organise briefings to Model UN groups when they visit New York.

United Nations: Meetings

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters were discussed at the meeting of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in London on 3 and 4 September 2009; and what agreements were reached. [294251]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK hosted a conference of senior policy-makers, military officials and technical experts from the P5 (Russia, China, the US, the UK and France) on 3-4 September 2009 to consider the confidence building, verification and compliance challenges associated with achieving further progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

The discussions covered ways to increase mutual understanding by sharing definitions of nuclear terminology and information about nuclear doctrines and capabilities; presentations on enhancing strategic stability; ways to build mutual confidence through voluntary transparency; and the international challenges associated with responding to nuclear accidents. The P5 undertook to consider ways to co-operate to address these challenges, and released a statement after the meeting.

Yvonne Fletcher

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the Cabinet Office inquiry into the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [294128]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government have no plans to place in the Library of the House a report relating to the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. A Metropolitan Police Service investigation into her murder is ongoing.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to meet *(a)* the Metropolitan Police Service and *(b)* his Libyan counterpart to discuss the investigation into the murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. [294129]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will meet with the Metropolitan Police Service and the family of WPC Fletcher on Thursday 22 October 2009 to discuss the investigation into the murder of WPC Fletcher. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials also meet regularly with the Metropolitan Police to receive updates. The most recent meeting was on Friday 16 October 2009. No meeting is currently scheduled with the Foreign Secretary's Libyan counterpart.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Creativity and Business International Network

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has budgeted for expenditure on the Creativity and Business International Network forum event to be held from 26 to 28 October 2009 at The Grove in Hertfordshire. [294784]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend, the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism, gave him on 14 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1210W. The cost of the event at the Grove is included within the £3 million allocated to this project for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter dated 22 July 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton concerning Ms G. Hine. [294727]

Mr. Bradshaw: A response was sent on 8 September 2009.

Television: Licensing

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in Leeds, Leeds West constituency receive a free television licence. [295358]

Mr. Simon: Free television licences are administered for people aged 75 or over by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. This is a matter for the BBC and my Department does not hold this information. I understand that the BBC cannot provide a breakdown of the licences distributed by constituency, but rather stores this information by postcode.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* North East Derbyshire receive a free television licence. [294844]

Mr. Simon: Free television licences are administered for people aged 75 or over by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC. This is a matter for the BBC and my Department does not hold this information. I understand that the BBC cannot provide a breakdown of the licences distributed by county, but rather stores this information by postcode.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

General Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what information the Electoral Commission has collected about the number of local authorities considering commencing their counts at the next general election on the day after polling day. [295029]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it wrote to Returning Officers for all UK parliamentary constituencies in September 2009 requesting information about when they intend to begin the counting of ballot papers for the UK parliamentary general election.

As of 21 October 2009, the Commission informs me that it had received responses from Returning Officers for 247 out of 650 constituencies. Returning Officers for 134 constituencies reported that they planned to begin counting on the evening of polling day. Returning Officers for 27 constituencies reported that they planned to begin counting on the morning of the day following polling day. Returning Officers for 86 constituencies reported that they had not yet decided when they would begin counting. Over the coming weeks the Commission will be actively seeking responses from Returning Officers who have yet to reply.

A spreadsheet detailing responses received by constituency, at 21 October 2009, has been placed in the House of Commons Library. This information is also available on the Commission website and will be updated regularly.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many hon. Members have returned monies to the House in respect of expenses claims; and how much has been repaid in each such case. [295069]

Nick Harvey: From 1 April to 21 October 2009, 260 Members and former Members made repayments of sums received as allowances totalling some £637,000. (This does not include all routine repayments arising from items such as refunds on utility bills and repayment of rental deposits.) More detailed information cannot be given without further checking, including checking by the Members concerned.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of Sir Thomas Legg's analysis of hon. Members' expenses claims. [295070]

Nick Harvey: The review is expected to cost approximately £1.1 million.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what information is held by the House of Commons Commission on the tax liability of hon. Members in relation to their expenses claims. [295078]

Nick Harvey: The House does not hold information about the individual tax liability of Members. However, the House does provide Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs with details of taxable expenses and benefits in kind, by 6 July after the end of each tax year. The information passed to HMRC is also sent to individual Members in advance.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality Bill

David Taylor: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many of the responses received to the consultation on the public sector equality duties proposed in the Equality Bill were from faith-based organisations working in the public sector. [294830]

Michael Jabez Foster: The consultation on the specific duties closed on 30 September. We are currently working through the responses and will publish an analysis in due course.

The single Equality Duty we are bringing in through our Equality Bill will place a new legal requirement on public bodies to consider how they can design and deliver services in ways that will tackle discrimination and advance equality for people of different religions and those of none—resulting in better, more responsive and more personalised services for all.

DEFENCE

Monitor Group

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had (i) meetings with, (ii) communications from and (iii) other contacts within the last five years; and what the subject matter of any contact was in each case. [295014]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ministers have not met or communicated with the Monitor Group; information regarding departmental officials is not held centrally.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service families have been placed by Modern Housing Solutions in *(a)* Premier Travel Inns and *(b)* other hotels in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [294042]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For information related to 2005 to June 2007, the hon. Member is referred to the answer given by my predecessor on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1246W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Information on the number of service families placed in Premier Travel Inns or other hotels between July 2007 and today is not held centrally. I will therefore write to the hon. Member with the information requested once it has been collated.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Willie Rennie:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 19 October 2009 (Official Report, column 1219W) regarding how many Service families have been placed in Premier Travel Inns and other hotels by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) in each year since 2005.

MHS are the Housing Prime Contractor with responsibility for the repair and maintenance of approximately 44,000 Service Family Accommodation homes in England and Wales. They provide a full 24 hour, 365 day a year service in order to ensure all domestic repair emergencies are resolved as quickly as possible and with the minimum of inconvenience to Service families.

However, there will always be some cases where domestic emergencies such as fires or floods cannot be immediately resolved, and therefore it will occasionally be necessary to provide alternative accommodation to families while remedial works are carried out. The MOD always seeks to use Service accommodation for this purpose. However, where this is not available it may be necessary to place families in hotel accommodation.

The number of families placed in hotel accommodation each year since 1 January 2006, the start of the Housing Prime Contract, is as follows:

	Premier Travel Inns	*Other hotels*
2006	9	46
2007	15	51
2008	36	82
2009[1]	77	115

[1] To 14 October.

I hope this information is helpful.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2124W, on armed forces: housing (1) for what reasons each of the charges set out in the answer were incurred; [294790]

(2) how many claims for damage to Modern Housing Solutions housing were made in each year for which information is available. [294791]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of claims for damage invoices raised against occupants of service family accommodation (SFA) for damage to property is provided in the following table.

Period	*Number of invoices raised*
1 November 2007 to 31 March 2008[1]	735
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009[2]	3,843
1 April 2009 to 31 August 2009[2]	1,563

[1] GB.
[2] UK.

These figures represent single invoices raised and cover all SFA properties including those not maintained by Modern Housing Solutions. Invoices may cover several items of damage caused by an occupant. A full breakdown of all invoices could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Medical Services

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from the Surgeon General's Department were based in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* England, *(d)* Northern Ireland, *(e)* Cyprus and *(f)* Germany in each of the last five years. [291376]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 September 2009]:* The Surgeon General's Department (SGD) is the central policy and secretariat division of the Defence Medical Services. Its staff include uniformed personnel who are serving members of the Royal Navy, Army and RAF Medical Services, as well as civilians. As at 1 October 2009, it had 160 staff (figure rounded to the nearest 10) all of whom were based in England. Figures for previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people resident in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in Northern Ireland have served in the armed forces in each of the last 10 years. [294712]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Residential address information for serving or ex-service personnel is not held with reference to country, parliamentary constituency or local authority. Further, there are significant questions over the accuracy and completeness of what is held; for example, some ex-service personnel do not provide a valid contact address on leaving the services or do not notify the MOD of a change of address if they move. The answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people resident in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in Northern Ireland were recruited to each branch of the armed forces in each of the last 10 years; and what the total from each community was. [294716]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the form requested. However, details of those recruited through the Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO) in Belfast, in the following table, give an indication of Northern Ireland recruitment into the armed forces.

Please note that this information will not provide a comprehensive picture of individuals recruited from Northern Ireland as it does not include those recruited through AFCOs elsewhere or through other means, such as the internet.

	Number recruited through AFCO Belfast 2008-09
Naval Services	46
Army	294
RAF	25

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* local authority area in Northern Ireland serving in the armed forces have been decorated for bravery in each of the last 10 years. [294729]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what policy the armed forces operate on the recruitment of people with *(a)* Asperger's syndrome and *(b)* autism; and whether any positions in each service are not open to people with (i) Asperger's syndrome and (ii) autism. [294499]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 20 October 2009]:* The tri-Service medical entry standards are contained within Joint Services Publication (JSP) 346, which advises that candidates with Asperger's syndrome and autism are not suitable for recruitment into any post in the Armed Forces. The only exception is where a potential recruit presents with a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome but on examination appears to exhibit none of the symptoms of the condition. While those with a confirmed diagnosis should normally be graded as unsuitable, it is recognised that there are instances when the original diagnosis may have been made in error, based on unusual adolescent behaviour which has resolved. In these doubtful cases further referral will normally be recommended before a final decision is made.

It is our policy that armed forces personnel should be recruited to be fully fit for deployment worldwide on operations. For this reason, the services do not recruit or commission personnel with existing medical conditions which may adversely impact on the effectiveness of the armed forces, or which may themselves be exacerbated by military circumstances. This is particularly relevant in cases of individuals with autism or Asperger's Syndrome, as military personnel are expected to perform in multiple roles, which may be difficult for someone suffering from these disorders. Further, all military personnel are required to work in close-knit teams, and in operational environments the pressures are such that anyone with significant disability in social interaction may well be a danger to themselves or their team. These two diagnoses have significant disability in social interaction as part of their defining features.

While it may be possible to retain in-service individuals who are already serving and are subsequently diagnosed as autistic or suffering from Asperger's (provided that there are worthwhile military roles for them to fulfil), this will normally mean that they will have to be re-graded and will not be able to deploy on operations. This also applies to other disabilities which might arise while an individual is in service but the forces do not recruit individuals where they would only be able to serve from the outset in a medically restricted capacity.

Browndown Training Facility

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Browndown training facility at Gosport; and if he will make a statement. [294937]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As part of ongoing efficiency work, and a departmental-wide exercise to deliver savings, the Department has conducted a review of its operations and identified a number of rationalisation measures. Browndown Camp has been included within this review. While no firm decision on the future of this facility has yet been taken, it is anticipated that parts of Browndown, in particular the dry training area, will continue to be used.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what grants his Department made to charitable organisations in each of the last five years. [292661]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The total amounts made as grants in aid are as follows:

	£
2003-04	30,817,129
2004-05	31,897,153
2005-06	31,604,136
2006-07	30,335,751
2007-08	32,218,493

A number of organisations receive grants in aid from the MOD including Voluntary Cadet Groups (Naval Cadet Force, Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and Combined Cadet Force), Museums, Forces Welfare organisations such as the Sailors, Soldiers, Air Forces and Families Association (SSAFA), Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS), Help Information Voluntary Exchange (HIVE) and sports bodies.

Smaller charitable grants are made by each of the single services to organisations with which they are closely affiliated. The amounts involved are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Colombia: Military Aid

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department *(a)* provides and *(b)* sponsors (i) advisory visits and (ii) information exchanges on military operations and tactics in urban theatres to Colombia; when the last such visit or exchange took place; and if he will make a statement. [295111]

Bill Rammell: Advisory visits and information exchanges between the UK and Colombia on military operations and tactics in urban theatres no longer take place. Historic records of visits and exchanges are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent *(a)* in England, *(b)* in Wales, *(c)* in Northern Ireland and *(d)* overseas on (i) equipment, (ii) non-equipment expenditure, (iii) service personnel costs and (iv) civil personnel costs in each year since 1997. [293427]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Estimated direct MOD expenditure for the sub-UK areas and categories requested for the years where data are available are provided in the following tables.

England

£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	19,780	21,020	21,100	22,910	23,450	23,320
Of which:										
Equipment expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,230	8,380	8,350	9,350	9,620	9,910
Non Equipment expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4,190	4,830	4,900	5,320	5,610	5,280
Service personnel costs	n/a	2,940	2,980	5,130	5,460	6,070	5,970	6,190	6,270	6,220
Civilian personnel cost	1,760	1,830	1,780	1,780	1,900	1,740	1,880	2,050	1,950	1,910

Wales

£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	340	430	370	380	400	390
Of which:										
Equipment expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	130	110	100	120	130
Non Equipment expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	90	140	100	120	100	80
Service personnel costs	n/a	70	60	100	110	120	120	120	140	140
Civilian personnel cost	40	40	40	30	40	40	40	40	40	40

Northern Ireland

£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	540	550	500	550	590	650
Of which:										
Equipment expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	120	90	60	70	60	120
Non Equipment expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70	90	70	110	140	140
Service personnel costs	n/a	180	170	250	270	300	290	280	300	300
Civilian personnel cost	70	70	70	70	80	70	80	90	90	90

Overseas

£ million at current prices (VAT exclusive)

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2,870	3,260	3,480	3,760	3,990	4,440
Of which:										
Equipment expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,260	1,470	1,710	1,880	2,170	2,630
Non Equipment expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	150	180	140	160	160	160
Service personnel costs	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,010	1,080	1,190	1,180	1,230	1,150	1,140
Civilian personnel cost	230	240	230	330	380	420	450	490	510	510

n/a = Denotes that data were not available for all the sub UK areas for these years.

[1] Denotes not applicable.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10 million.
2. Indirect expenditure, such as subcontracted work, is not reflected in these figures.
3. Personnel costs exclude contributions made by MOD to the Armed Forces Pensions Scheme and War Pensions Scheme.
4. Reliable data for equipment and non equipment expenditure are not available for all the sub UK areas for the years prior to 2002-03.

The defence budget is not formally allocated at sub-UK level. Defence Procurement provides the UK armed forces with the equipment needed as efficiently as possible to deliver the best value for money for the armed forces regardless of where the items are procured or MOD personnel are located. The Defence Budget is planned on this basis to achieve the optimum allocation of resources in relation to current defence objectives and priorities.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294977]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The provision of helplines is determined at local level in accordance with individual business requirements and obtained directly from the supplier. Records of such helplines are not held centrally and information relating to them, including any revenue accrued, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

News International

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had (i) meetings with, (ii) communications from and (iii) other contacts with News International in the last five years; and what the subject matter of any contact was in each case. [295015]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In the course of accounting for the Department's work through the media, Ministers and officials deal with News International representatives on a regular basis. No central record of this routine business is held.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* armed forces personnel and *(b)* veterans have received treatment for (i) mental health problems, (ii) alcohol addiction and (iii) drug abuse since 2001; [295082]

(2) how many and what proportion of military personnel who have served or are serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been treated for post-traumatic stress disorder; [295083]

(3) how many new diagnoses of post-traumatic stress disorder there have been since 2001. [295085]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 416-417W.

Territorial Army

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who within his Department took the decision to cease Territorial Army training until 1 April 2010; and whether regular unit personnel *(a)* attached to and *(b)* working in Territorial Army units will be paid up to 1 April 2010. [294266]

Bill Rammell: Like all Government Departments, the Ministry of Defence routinely reviews expenditure to ensure that we allocate our resources where they are needed most and success in Afghanistan must take priority. Accordingly, senior officials discussed emerging budgetary pressures in the summer and then asked all budget holders within the Department to review all uncommitted funding. The plan to restrict Territorial Army activity for the remainder of the current financial year was one of a number of cost saving proposals put forward by the Chief of the General Staff and endorsed by the Defence Secretary.

Regular Army personnel attached to TA units will continue to work and be paid during the period of restrictions.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the number of Territorial Army (TA) reservists who will leave the TA as a result of the proposed six month stand-down of the TA; [294318]

(2) what estimate he has made of the reduction in expenditure which will accrue from the six-month stand-down of the Territorial Army. [294321]

Bill Rammell: We are absolutely committed to ensuring that the front-line is properly resourced, and that the mission in Afghanistan will have all the backing it needs to succeed. All personnel, both regular and reserve, currently earmarked for operations will be provided with the training they need before deployment and be paid for it. The suspension for the remainder of this financial year of Territorial Army (TA) activity not directly supporting operations will contribute £20 million to a total saving of £43 million in the TA budget this year.

The reductions in normal activity are, of course, disappointing for TA members. We hope that the majority will understand the reasons behind these restrictions and the exceptional circumstances in which they are being applied. We are confident that reservists will stay to resume training when the restrictions are lifted.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Territorial Army (TA) reservists in *(a)* Pembrokeshire and *(b)* Wales will receive no (i) pay and (ii) training during the proposed six month stand-down of the TA; [294319]

(2) how many Territorial Army (TA) reservists in *(a)* Pembrokeshire and *(b)* Wales will continue to receive operational training before deployment on operations during the proposed six month stand-down of the TA; [294320]

(3) how many Territorial Army reservists from *(a)* Pembrokeshire and *(b)* Wales have served in operations in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq since 2002; [294322]

(4) what assessment he has made of the role and effectiveness of the Territorial Army in Wales. [294323]

Bill Rammell: The Territorial Army (TA) continues to play a vital role in support of the Regular Army, not least on operations in Afghanistan. TA personnel in Wales offer a variety of essential skills and capabilities including infantry, artillery, medical, engineers and transport.

The current period of restricted activity does not affect those TA personnel preparing for operations or those new recruits in Phase 1 (initial) training. Approximately 2,300 TA personnel are attached to TA units based in Wales. Of these 30 are attached to units based in Pembrokeshire. Of the 2300, 60 are currently on operations, a further 120 are currently training for operations and a further 420 are in Phase 1 training. Fewer than 10 of the 30 personnel attached to units based in Pembrokeshire are currently training for operations; and a further 10 are in Phase 1 training. None is currently mobilised. All TA personnel will be provided with opportunities to undertake activities required to meet the minimum standard to qualify for their bounty this year, if they have not already done so.

Approximately 930 TA personnel have mobilised to serve on operations overseas from units based in Wales since 2003. Of these fewer than 10 have deployed from units based in Pembrokeshire. These figures include small numbers of personnel who deployed on operations other than in Afghanistan and Iraq. Information prior to 2003 and on numbers who have deployed to specific operational theatres is not held centrally.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the stoppage of payments for the Territorial Army training until 31 March 2010 is being applied in respect of *(a)* Royal Marines Reserve, *(b)* 2/3 Regiment Special Air Service and *(c)* 4th Battalion, the Parachute Regiment. [294478]

Bill Rammell: The restrictions being applied this financial year to Territorial Army training affect only those units that are funded from the Land Forces budget. This includes 4th Battalion, the Parachute Regiment. The Royal Marines Reserves receive their funding by other routes. It is the long-standing practice of this Department not to comment upon Special Forces.

Territorial Army: Civil Contingency Reaction Forces

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether members of the Territorial Army will be paid if they are called out as part of the Civil Contingency Reaction Force in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [293987]

Bill Rammell: In response to a recommendation within the recent report on the Strategic Review of the Reserves, the current Civil Contingency Reaction Force structure has been discontinued as a role for regional Territorial Army units. However, joint regional liaison officer posts and brigade reinforcement teams have been retained within regional forces brigade headquarters to continue in a command and control framework providing the necessary link with the civilian authorities and emergency services.

Support to operations remains the highest priority for Defence including support to United Kingdom operations. Territorial Army personnel who are called out in support of any operation will be entitled to remuneration in accordance with normal, extant policy.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Flexible Working

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what flexi-time arrangements were available to staff of his Department in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year. [290583]

Barbara Follett: Flexi-time arrangements are just one of many flexible working arrangements that are available to staff.

Participants in the flexi time arrangement are required to be present during certain hours of the day, known as "core-time". However, subject to operational needs and line management agreement, participants may start and finish work each day at the times they choose during the "flexible range" (ie the hours before and after core-time), provided they complete their net conditioned hours exclusive of lunch-breaks (36 hours per week in London and 37 elsewhere) during the agreed "accounting period".

	Hours
Flexible starting period	07.30-10.00
Core-time	10.00-12.00
Flexible lunch break	12.00-14.30
Core-time	14.30-16.00
Flexible finishing period	16.00-20.30

Subject to the workflow and reasonable demands of the office, staff may accumulate in any accounting period a credit balance of up to 22.2 hours (21.6 hours in London) or a debit balance of up to 11.1 hours (10.8 hours in London). Staff should not arrive at work and finish work in such a way as to accumulate credit hours without regard to the proper needs of the office.

Flexi time arrangements are delegated to line managers and no central record is kept. Therefore, the number of staff participating in such arrangements in each of the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff there were in *(a)* his Department's predecessor in 1997 and *(b)* his Department on the latest date for which figures are available. [292058]

Barbara Follett: Information about staff numbers in the Department of the Environment on 1 April 1997 are given in Civil Service Statistics 1997 which can be accessed via the link at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/archived-reports.aspx

In accordance with the definition provided by the Office for National Statistics, there were 2,266 staff (full-time equivalent) in Communities and Local Government at 30 September 2009.

Departmental Motor Vehicles

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on hire vehicles in each of the last five financial years. [291600]

Barbara Follett: Figures for the Department's expenditure on hire vehicles for the last three years are tabled as follows. Figures for earlier years could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2006-07	48,444
2007-08	57,250
2008-09	25,657

Departmental Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what employee reward schemes are offered to staff of his Department; what the purpose of each scheme is; how many staff participate in each scheme; and what the cost of operating each scheme was in each of the last five years. [290585]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1340W and to the reply given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1074W.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of procurement contracts *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies awarded to small businesses in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08, (iii) 2008-09 and (iv) 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [293233]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department and the Planning Inspectorate and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is currently putting in place systems that will identify small and medium enterprises on its finance system which will allow this to be reported on in the future.

However the Department's other agencies, Fire Service College and Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre were able to supply the following figures:

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Percentage 2009*[1]
Fire Service College	43	40	100	50
QEII Conference Centre	36	32	33	29

[1] To date

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data his Department holds on the level of diversity in the recruitment of employees by his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years. [290503]

Barbara Follett: Information on workforce diversity is published as part of our Disability Equality Scheme, Gender Equality Scheme, Race Equality Scheme and their related updates. These are available on our corporate web pages.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/

Our Workforce Diversity Data Reports, which also contain data on work force diversity and recruitment, have been published annually on our Workforce Equalities web pages since 2006; hard copies are also available on request.

Departmental Training

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of attendances on each such course. [289705]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold information on the number of external training courses attended by staff in the last 12 months centrally. External training courses are agreed by line managers and there would be a disproportionate cost in trying to obtain such information.

Departmental Travel

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel and *(d)* hotels for (i) Ministers and (ii) staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [289978]

Barbara Follett: Figures for the Department's expenditure on *(a)* car hire, *(b)* train travel, *(c)* air travel and *(d)* hotels for the last three years is tabled as follows. Figures for earlier years could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Car hire	695,296	658,041	576,085
Rail	1,308,768	909,396	1,126,261
Air	597,311	213,009	280,295
Hotel	543,295	437,868	326,322
Total	3,144,670	2,218,314	2,308,963

Figures for Ministers could be disaggregated from these totals only at disproportionate cost.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively, and all spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in "Managing Public Money".

Later this year the Department will begin releasing the details of business expenses and hospitality received by senior officials. These will be published on our website on a quarterly basis.

The Cabinet Office also publish an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list can be viewed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294683]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) to question 289978. Details of overnight accommodation overseas could be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas travel over £500 undertaken by Ministers. The 2008-09 list can be viewed at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

Disabled Facilities Grants

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* Government funding and *(b)* total expenditure there has been on disabled facilities grants in England in each year since 2004-05; and how many such grants were awarded in each of those years. [293186]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the total expenditure on disabled facilities grants in England since 2004-05 and the funding contribution made by Government. Further details can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/

Disabled facilities grant

	Government contribution (£)	*Total expenditure including LA contribution (£)*	*Total number grants completed*
2004-05	99,572	210,922	38,552
2005-06	111,294	221,289	34,975
2006-07	120,723	232,828	37,267
2007-08	138,250	259,389	38,129
2008-09	146,081	274,356	[1]n/a
2009-10	156,930	[1]n/a	[1]n/a

[1] Not yet published.

EC Grants and Loans

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 389W, on the European Commission, what the sterling equivalent is of the totals provided in euros in the answer. [294085]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The sterling equivalent was £23 million.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the size of the financial correction likely to be imposed by the European Commission in respect of irregularities in management of European funds in relation to those *(a)* 1997-99 programmes and *(b)* 2000-06 programmes for which his Department has responsibility. [294098]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The financial correction imposed earlier this year by the Commission in respect of error rates found in two English 1997-99 programmes was £26 million. The departmental accounts for 2008-9 show (at note 29) a contingent liability of £215 million in respect of the 2000-2006 programmes. These liabilities are unlikely to be realised in full and the Department is taking steps to make sure that they are minimised. Only when all open audits are concluded and the programme closure reports have been submitted to the Commission on 31 March 2010, will we be able to assess what provision may be required against possible corrections by the European Commission.

Fire Brigades Union

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with representatives of the Fire Brigades Union in the last 12 months; on what date each meeting was held; and whether the Fireguard project was discussed. [292880]

Mr. Malik: Ministers met formally with the representative of the Fire Brigades Union to discuss fire related issues on 22 October 2008; 17 December 2008; 9 March 2009; 5 May 2009 and the 8 July 2009. There is no record of the Fireguard project being discussed.

Fire Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to fire and rescue authorities on the re-configuration of fire services in terms of the location of fire stations and fire appliances. [292573]

Mr. Malik: Decisions on operational issues such as the location of fire stations and fire appliances are taken by individual Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) as part of the Integrated Risk Management Planning process.

FRAs are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances—evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resource accordingly.

A range of guidance on the drawing up of IRMPs has been issued to FRAs and is available on the Communities and Local Government website. The only recent change has been the revision of IRPM Guidance Note 4, which is not relevant to the location of fire stations and fire appliances.

Fire Services: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the total cost of delivery of the FiReControl project; and what estimates were made in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [293319]

Mr. Malik: The current estimated overall cost of delivery of the FiReControl Project for *(a)* 2004 was £120 million; *(b)* 2005—£160 million; *(c)* 2006—£190 million; *(d)* 2007—£360 million; and *(e)* 2008—£380 million.

Early estimates of project costs did not include the funding that has been provided to FRAs to support local and regional implementation activity, the costs of the RCC building leases and the costs of equipment that will be installed in every fire station in England to support improved mobilisation.

Housing: Lighting

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether recent restrictions on the sale of incandescent light bulbs prohibit the sale of such bulbs for hereditaments which are not domestic dwellings. [294626]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

EC Regulation 244/2009 under the Eco-design for Energy-using Products Framework Directive sets eco-design requirements on non-directional household lamps, including when they are marketed for non-household use.

The measure effectively prevents incandescent lamps from being placed on the market over a three year period that began in September 2009; although retailers will be able to continue to sell any existing stock. As well as energy-efficient Compact Fluorescent Lamps, other non-directional lamps such as LED and halogen lamps are to remain on the market as alternatives. These are available to fit existing fittings.

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the likely timetable is for the commencement of each provision of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill if enacted. [294082]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The arrangements for commencement of provisions contained in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill are set out in clauses 144 and 145 of the Bill. A number of the provisions contained in the Bill will come into force on a day specified by the Secretary of State. In these cases, as I informed the House in the context of Part 1 of the Bill (*Official Report*, 13 October 2008, column 237) the Government are keeping all options for commencement open, including bringing provisions into force in April 2010.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data sets on *(a)* council tax collection, *(b)* business rate collection and *(c)* other matters not contained in the national indicator set local authorities are required to provide to his Department. [294131]

Barbara Follett: The following data set on the collection of *(a)* council tax and *(b)* business rates by local authorities are collected by the Local Government Finance directorate in Communities and Local Government:

BR—Budget Requirement

NNDR—Non Domestic Rates Pool

QRC—Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rate Collections

CTB—Council Tax Base.

Examples of the forms used to collect the data from local authorities can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/usefulinformation/formstimetable/otherforms/

(c) Communities and Local Government does not hold a central register of information and datasets collected from local authorities and to produce a definitive list of such collections would involve disproportionate cost. However, where it has been possible to readily identify such collections, these are in the following list.

In addition to council tax and business rates information, the following finance information is collected:

CER—Capital Estimates Return

RA, SG and BID—Revenue Account Budgets and Business Improvement District Revenue Account Transactions

CPR—Capital Payments and Receipts

QB—Quarterly Borrowing and Lending

QRW—Quarterly Return of Wages and Salaries

MB—Monthly Borrowing and Lending

RO—Revenue Outturn Suite

COR—Capital Outturn Suite

WGA—Whole of Government Accounts

SF3—Pension Funds Account

CFR—Capital Forecast Return

BR—Budget Requirement.

Local authorities voluntarily provide the Department with the following data returns, which are collected for uses such as to inform national policy direction. Those with an asterisk include some information which is used to calculate national indicators:

P2 Quarterly Housebuilding*

P1B—Sales of Council Dwellings (quarterly)

P1E—Households affected by Homeless provisions of 1996 housing act (quarterly)*

PSF—Combined development control PS1/PS2/FEE1 (quarterly)

CPS1/2 and FEE2—General Development Control and Fees received for planning applications (quarterly)

GTCC_M—Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count (collected bi-annually)

AGB—Annual Green Belt (annual)

HFR—Housing Flows Reconciliation (annual)

HSSA—Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual)

BPAM—Business Plan Annual Monitoring (annual)

NROSH—National Register of Social Housing

ROHLMO—Register of Homes of Multiple Occupation

ESEH—Electronic Survey of Empty Homes

Mortgage Rescue Scheme return

Quarterly Prevent report (through Government Offices)

Local authorities inform the Department how many rough sleepers they find when they carry out a street count. The total number of rough sleepers found on street counts is published annually.

The following datasets are collected from Fire and Rescue Services:

Data on incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services (including NI 33 and NI 49, but additional information is available to CLG through the automated collection system for production of National Statistics.

HR data

Community Fire Safety

Fire Protection

Financial data

Health and Safety.

Local Government: Influenza

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 2 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 463-64W, on local government: influenza, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the Local Resilience Forum plans that have undergone validation by each of the Government offices for the regions. [292867]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

Local Resilience Forum (LRF) multi-agency pandemic influenza plans are locally owned and are constantly adapted and updated to reflect the most accurate assessment of the local position. We do not hold central copies of the latest plans so are unable to place them in the Library. However, the latest plans can be found on local LRF websites and can be accessed through the UK Resilience pages of the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/pandemicflu/plans/regional_plans.aspx

In the few cases where LRF websites are still under development, LRF multi-agency pandemic influenza plans are available from the LRF Secretariat. Contact details for the secretariats are also available on the UK Resilience pages of the Cabinet Office website.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 9 June 2009 on flood defences of listed buildings. [289863]

Barbara Follett: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 21 July 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rate bill has been in each Government office region in each year since 1997-98. [293160]

Barbara Follett: The average business rates bill in both England and in each Government Office region in each year since 1997-98, including the estimated average figures for 2009-10, are shown in the following table.

£

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
1997-98	5,501	5,215	5,381	5,716	5,686	7,026	10,057	7,208	7,087	6,796
1998-99	5,978	5,589	5,869	6,142	6,290	7,125	10,433	7,759	5,295	7,016
1999-2000	6,159	5,770	6,005	6,251	6,487	7,080	9,792	7,796	5,412	6,998
2000-01	6,968	6,825	6,954	7,237	7,588	8,096	12,033	9,212	6,332	8,264
2001-02	7,305	7,273	7,433	7,670	7,756	8,476	12,842	9,205	6,570	8,714
2002-03	7,498	7,646	7,664	7,846	8,003	8,685	13,753	10,045	6,658	9,071
2003-04	7,518	7,708	7,623	7,893	8,035	8,620	14,124	10,053	6,614	9,137
2004-05	7,701	7,793	7,773	7,955	8,192	8,740	14,484	10,252	6,662	9,301
2005-06	8,367	8,086	8,317	8,477	8,672	9,575	15,705	11,124	7,195	9,997
2006-07	8,704	8,496	8,479	9,021	8,906	10,003	15,886	11,192	7,538	10,275
2007-08	8,941	8,719	8,501	9,189	9,031	9,999	15,733	11,210	7,655	10,330
2008-09	9,452	9,473	9,288	9,946	9,743	10,804	17,482	12,325	8,279	11,274
2009-10	10,157	10,159	10,009	10,610	10,682	11,519	19,120	13,190	8,816	12,145

The data are taken from NNDR returns submitted by billing authorities.

Average business rate is calculated by dividing the net rate yield from local authority's lists by the number of hereditaments on local list as at 31 December of the previous year.

Comparisons across regions and years may not be valid as the rateable values for individual properties, and hence actual rates bills, vary greatly. Changes in the figures for the years around 2000-01 are affected by transfers of properties from the central list to local lists, transfers of crown properties to local lists and the adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2000 revaluation to take account of losses from appeals. Changes in the figures for the years around 2005-06 are also affected by adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2005 revaluation.

Political Impartiality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance to officials in his Department on politically-restricted activity. [illegible]

Barbara Follett: Our staff handbook has been developed as an interactive publication delivered through the Department's intranet. It is not held in a format which allows it to be easily exported and therefore could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However, the rules relating to political activity are set by the Cabinet Office and can be found in the Civil Service Management Code.

Retail Trade: Hygiene

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the national roll-out of the scores on doors scheme for local authorities. [294465]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The Food Standards Agency is establishing a national "scores on the doors" scheme in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for rating hygiene standards in food businesses.

The outline timetable for this is as follows:

Element of scheme	*Date*
Scope and exemptions to scope (type of business to be included)	By end October 2009
Guidance on pre-launch/launch/migration issues for local authorities	
Data standard for use with the web-based IT platform for publishing scores	
Derivation of numerical score and "mapping" of this to the different tiers of the scheme	By end February 2010
Safeguard mechanisms to ensure fairness to businesses	
Symbols, descriptors and branding for the scheme	
Consistency framework for local authorities for scheme operation	By end March 2010
Peer review arrangements and auditing of the scheme	By end August 2010
General guidance on all aspects of the scheme	

Shops: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 14 April 2009, on the empty shops revival plan, how many of the proposals referred to have been adopted by local authorities to date. [294788]

Barbara Follett: There has been widespread interest in the 'Looking After Our Town Centres' guide and there have been over 11,000 downloads of the document from our website since it was published in April this year. We are delivering the support we promised to help town centres, including the announcement in August this year of £3 million funding to help high streets that have been hardest hit by the recession.

It is for local authorities to decide how to promote their town centres. We have highlighted approaches that are already being taken, but councils are not required to provide monitoring information to CLG. We continue to discuss issues affecting town centres with stakeholders and have supported good practice events. We know that several councils are adopting approaches inspired by the guide like using empty shops to display art work or information on the local area; seasonal festivals to attract visitors; free car parking on Saturdays, pop-up shops to try out new retail ideas, and fresh marketing initiatives.

Village Fetes: Food

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance the Foods Standards Agency has issued on the selling of home-cooked food at village fetes and community events; and what licences or permits are required for its sale. [294564]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

For community events or clubs, the most recent guidance regarding food hygiene rules and on good hygiene practice, as well as on the rules regarding labelling of foods is covered in a question and answer format on the Food Standards Agency's "Eatwell" website at:

www.eatwell.gov.uk/asksam/keepingfoodsafe/asksamevents/

Guidance on food allergies with regard to non-prepacked foods can also be found on the agency's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/labelregsguidance/nonprepacked

No licence or permit is required for the sale of such foodstuffs at such events.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much in central Government grants, including *(a)* specific and *(b)* special grants, was given to local authorities for (i) waste collection and (ii) waste disposal in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available. [292572]

Dan Norris: I have been asked to reply.

In 2008-09 Defra directly provided £78.2 million in funding to local authorities outside London via the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant. £60 million will be made available to London authorities through the London Waste and Recycling Fund for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. These unringfenced capital grants will be paid to upper tier and unitary authorities to enable them to set up the necessary waste infrastructure to help England meet landfill targets.

Defra also provides financial support to local authorities through Private Finance Initiative credits to help accelerate the building of the infrastructure needed to treat residual waste without compromising efforts to minimise waste and increase recycling levels. To date £2.5 billion has been allocated to 37 projects. Further information can be found on Defra's website.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) provided a total of £2.68 million to local authorities during 2008-09. The funds were spent on local communications campaigns specifically to improve communications with householders about local recycling services and to promote the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign. WRAP has no remit in relation to waste disposal and has not, therefore, provided any funds to local authorities in relation to it.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many companies which have received support from UK Trade and Investment in the last 12 months have also received support from a regional development agency in that period. [292917]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* UKTI does not collate these figures. UKTI acts as the trade arm for the regional development agencies (RDAs), providing trade services for companies. Where companies have been helped by both UKTI and the RDAs, it will be on separate forms of business support.

Charities

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the charitable purposes of *(a)* First Securitisation Company Limited and *(b)* Capita IRG Trustees Limited. [294864]

Ian Lucas: The Department does not hold any information concerning charitable purposes of the First Securitisation Company Limited or Capita IRG Trustees Limited. Neither company is a registered charity.

Insolvency

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many Statements of Insolvency Practice (SIP) 16 reports have not provided sufficient information to creditors on valuation and marketing; and how many insolvency practitioners have been recorded as failing to comply with SIP 16 reporting requirements. [292927]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The Insolvency Service does not record SIP 16 information in a format that is readily able to identify how many SIP 16 reports have not provided sufficient information to creditors on valuation and marketing.

To answer this part of the question would involve examining hundreds of separate reports. To determine which of those reports did not provide sufficient information regarding valuation and/or marketing would require significant staff resources, which would be in excess of the £750 disproportionate cost threshold.

The Insolvency Service published a report on its' first six months monitoring of SIP 16 in July 2009. The report indicated that SIP 16 information provided in relation to 202 out of a total of 572 companies entering administration during the period was deemed to be not fully compliant. The Insolvency Service's monitoring of SIP 16 information is continuing and a further report will be published in the new year.

It should be noted that the number of insolvency practitioners involved in the provision of non-compliant SIP 16 information is not the same as the figure indicated above. This is because the majority of insolvency practitioners undertaking pre-pack administrations, and therefore providing SIP 16 information, are appointed on multiple appointments. In addition, the majority of administration appointments are held by more than one insolvency practitioner on a joint basis.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many times officials of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Insolvency Service have met representatives of recognised professional bodies to discuss Statements of Insolvency Practice (SIP) 16 in the last 12 months; and what representations (i) his Department and (ii) the Insolvency Service has received from the insolvency industry on the implementation and review of SIP 16. [292928]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The Insolvency Service carries out the Secretary of State's function with regard to both the direct authorisation of insolvency practitioners and the regulation of the recognised professional bodies that authorise the vast majority of insolvency practitioners. The Department has therefore not had any direct liaison with the recognised professional bodies on the issue of SIP 16 as this has been undertaken by the Insolvency Service.

There have been three separate meetings during 2009 between the Insolvency Service and representatives from the recognised professional bodies to discuss the implementation and monitoring of SIP 16. The most recent meeting was held in September to discuss issuing guidance to practitioners to improve compliance with SIP 16. As a result of that meeting, the Insolvency Service has drafted guidance for insolvency practitioners, which is currently being reviewed by the recognised professional bodies prior to being issued.

Many of the recognised professional bodies issued their own guidance on SIP 16 immediately following the publication of the report on the first six months operation of the SIP, to improve compliance. The bodies have welcomed further guidance and have agreed to issue the latest guidance at the same time as it is issued by the Insolvency Service. R3, the trade body for insolvency practitioners, has invited the Insolvency Service to take part in training at meetings and conferences to improve compliance with the SIP.

The Insolvency Service is also a member of the Joint Insolvency Committee along with all the recognised professional bodies, which holds quarterly meetings to review guidance issued to insolvency practitioners. In the course of these meetings and those of sub-groups of the Committee, SIP 16 will have been discussed in general terms.

The Insolvency Service is working closely with the recognised professional bodies to improve insolvency practitioners' compliance with the SIP and to consider whether and how the SIP may be strengthened.

Rover Group

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many draft reports from the investigators of the collapse of MG Rover were provided to the Government for comment before publication of the final report on 11 September 2009. [292929]

Ian Lucas *[holding answer 14 October 2009]:* The Government were involved in the MG Rover inspection both as supervisor and as a witness. An information barrier was put in place at an early stage to keep the information held by those supervising the inspection separate from Government witnesses and their advisers.

Officials involved in the supervision of the inspection read a draft of each of the chapters of the Inspectors' report as they became available and fed comments back to the Inspectors. The Inspectors continued to work on the drafts and, where they made substantive amendments, officials re-read chapters or sections of chapters. The drafts were read at the offices of the Secretariat to the inspection.

The Government also provided information and gave witness evidence to the inspection. As with other witnesses to the inspection, Government witnesses and their advisers were given an opportunity to comment on provisional criticisms from the Inspectors. Some extracts of the draft report were also provided to the Government witnesses and their advisers where the Inspectors intended to make specific reference to Government evidence.

Technology Strategy Board

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what collaborative research and development projects the Technology Strategy Board has funded in each of the last three years; and how much funding has been provided for each project. [294934]

Mr. Lammy: Since it was established in July 2007 the Technology Strategy Board has issued offers to grant fund the following collaborative R&D projects.

A copy of the table will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Technology Strategy Board has developed a practice appraisal and evaluation regime to measure the success of its activities. [294936]

Mr. Lammy: The Technology Strategy Board operates an appraisal and evaluation regime covering the performance of its activities such as the programmes it delivers and the support mechanisms it uses and also at an individual project level.

The mechanisms Technology Strategy Board uses to deliver support such as Collaborative R&D, Knowledge Transfer Networks and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships are evaluated on a regular basis (usually every two years) as part of the evaluation of the products which come under the Support for Business portfolio to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of business and deliver successful results.

Individual projects are monitored on a quarterly basis during the life of the project and a final report is produced at the end of the project demonstrating the outcomes achieved. Since the Technology Strategy Board was established, it has also introduced post project evaluation at one year and five years after the end of the project, particularly to understand the economic impact. Due to the nature of the support provided by the Technology Strategy Board, the true impact of the project is often not known until a period of time after the project has completed.

The Technology Strategy Board has also produced a series of case studies demonstrating the successful outcomes of projects it has funded which are available on its website:

www.innovateuk.org

The Technology Strategy Board is currently undertaking work to further develop a framework to continue to develop and refine its metrics and impact measures to be able to understand at a more detailed level the impact of its activities. It is also working more broadly with NESTA, BIS and ESRC to develop an Innovation Index to measure UK innovation.

UK Innovation Fund

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2093W, on the UK Innovation Fund, which budgets within his Department other than the Strategic Investment Fund he will draw on to accumulate the remaining £25 million for the UK Innovation Fund; and how much he will draw from each budget. [292175]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 14 October 2009]*: As a trading fund the Intellectual Property Office has built up retained earnings of around £55 million. The Department has identified these reserves as a source of the remaining £25 million funding for the UK Innovation Investment Fund. Drawing on these reserves as an equity withdrawal will enable the Department to invest in the fund whilst continuing to meet its other commitments.

HEALTH

Dementia

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of people diagnosed with dementia; what assessment he has made of likely trends in numbers of dementia diagnoses to 2020; and if he will make a statement. [296369]

Phil Hope: The Department has not made a recent estimate of the likely number of people diagnosed with dementia. However, the Alzheimers Society's Dementia UK report, published in 2007 estimated that there were then 560,000 people in England with dementia and that numbers would rise to over 750,000 by 2020.

Dental Services: EC Nationals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place to provide citizens of other EU countries with dental treatment if they are resident in the UK. [294354]

Ann Keen: Citizens of other European Union countries who are ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom may access the healthcare services, including dentistry, that are available to any UK resident.

Under European Community regulations, posted workers and their dependents from member states of the European economic area and Switzerland are entitled to access state-funded healthcare on production of form E106. State pensioners and their dependents registered on form E121, in accordance with the same regulations, access state-funded healthcare in the same way as someone ordinarily resident in the UK.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many helplines his Department operates; and how much his Department has received from the operation of such helplines in each of the last three years. [294981]

Phil Hope: The Department's Communications Directorate runs nine campaign-specific phone lines and there are an additional four campaign linked lines run by other parts of the Department.

No profit is made by the Department on calls to these lines.

Information on any other telephone services that may be run on behalf of the Department is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on overnight accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials while overseas in each of the last three years. [294693]

Phil Hope: Providing information on the cost of accommodation overseas could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Overseas trips undertaken by Ministers and costing more than £500 are published annually at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

The list for 2008-09 was published on 16 July 2009. Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Elderly Care

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people aged 85 years and over who have a disability or limiting long-term illness in *(a)* Vale of York constituency, *(b)* North Yorkshire and *(c)* England. [294571]

Phil Hope: Data on the number of people aged 85 years and over with a disability is not collected centrally, although information on the number of people receiving social services funded either fully or partially by Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities in England is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care as part of the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care return.

During the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 the number of adults aged 65 and over with physical disabilities, frailty or a sensory impairment receiving a social care service funded either partly or wholly by their Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibilities following a community care assessment was in North Yorkshire 14,760 and in England 1,045,250. Data for the Vale of York is not available.

Information on the number of people over 85 who have a limiting long termed illness is also not available.

However, using general practitioner patient survey results, where people over 85 are reported to have one or more long standing conditions, together with population figures from the 2001 census, it is estimated that Yorkshire and Humber region (not North Yorkshire) has 75,000, Vale of York has 1,400, and England has 746,000 people aged 85 and over living with one or more long term condition.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are taken to seek to ensure that notification of medical appointments reach patients before the appointment date; and whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on arrangements for medical appointments of industrial action at national level among Royal Mail employees. [294578]

Gillian Merron: As part of the ongoing work of the national health service resilience project, the Department of Health and the national health service is aware the Communication Workers Union have announced plans for industrial action. As with similar national incidents, the Department of Health is working with the Cabinet Office and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as part of the cross-government response to this issue, and ensuring any impact on NHS services is fully understood by all concerned, and the NHS is putting in place appropriate contingency measures.

IVF

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to increase the availability of fertility treatment at primary care trusts that do not currently provide funding for at least one full cycle of in vitro fertilisation; and if he will make a statement; [294437]

(2) what percentage of primary care trusts which provide funding for at least one full cycle of in vitro fertilisation do so for people within the recommended age range for treatment of between 23 and 39 years of age; [294438]

(3) which primary care trusts provide funding for one full cycle of in vitro fertilisation for women aged 39 years and six months only; [294439]

(4) what percentage of primary care trusts provide funding for people to receive *(a)* more than one full cycle of in vitro fertilisation (IVF), *(b)* one full cycle of IVF and *(c)* less than one full cycle of IVF; and if he will make a statement. [294440]

Gillian Merron: The provision of fertility treatment by primary care trusts (PCTs) is determined at local level. The Government support the clinical guidelines on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), and has made it clear that PCTs are expected to move towards full implementation of the guideline. Many have already made firm progress (the number of PCTs offering three cycles of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment has increased by 22 percentage points between 2007 and 2008) and others continue to develop their policies.

Responses to a survey carried out in early 2009 and published on the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Fertility/index.htm

in June 2009 showed that in 2008 50 per cent. of PCTs provided either two or three full cycles of IVF, with 25 per cent. providing one full cycle and 22 per cent. providing one fresh cycle. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The North Staffordshire PCT reported offering treatment in exceptional cases only. The North Yorkshire and York PCT is the only PCT providing funding for one cycle of IVF for women age 39 years and six months only. We understand that this was instituted as a temporary measure from 2007 pending a review of provision across the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority.

88 per cent. of PCTs offer IVF for eligible couples across the full NICE recommended range for treatment, i.e. where the woman is aged 23-39.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England he estimates are waiting for access to psychological therapies; and what the average waiting time for such treatment is. [294357]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected nationally although all services in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme monitor times from assessment to treatment in their area as well as both health and social outcomes of patients.

NHS Direct: Ambulance Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects on the standards of patient care of integrating the services provided by NHS Direct and Ambulance Services; and if he will make a statement. [294325]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not made an assessment on the effects on the standards of patient care of integrating the services provided by NHS Direct and Ambulance Services.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS trusts are required to make any financial returns to his Department other than those under the PFR3 and TFR3 data collections. [294359]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Primary care trusts and national health service trusts are required to submit the following financial returns via the Financial Information Management System (FIMS), in addition to the PFR3 and TFR3 collections:

financial monitoring and accounts (FMA) forms;

programme budgeting (primary care trusts only);

FIMS(FHS)4 returns—General Medical Services (primary care trusts only);

FIMS(FHS)3 returns—General Ophthalmic Services (primary care trusts only); and

TFR6—ambulance services expenditure (ambulance trusts only).

Radiotherapy

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of *(a)* levels of the availability of and *(b)* waiting times for stereotactic radiosurgery treatments for NHS patients. [293969]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not made a specific assessment of levels of availability of stereotactic radiosurgery.

Latest available data showing the median time waited (days) for a finished admission episode for stereotactic radiosurgery on tissue of the brain carried are shown in the following table:

	Median time waited (days)
2006-07	21
2007-08	15

Notes:

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* children have received free fruit and vegetables under the school fruit and vegetable scheme; how much fruit has been provided under the scheme; what account is taken of pupil absence rates in provision of fruit to schools under the scheme; how much the scheme has cost in each year of its operation; and if he will make a statement. [294326]

Gillian Merron: In the year to September 2009 the school fruit and vegetable scheme (SFVS) has distributed around 440 million pieces of fruit and vegetable each year to over two million children in over 16,300 schools. In April 2004 the Department took over the scheme from the Big Lottery Fund, and the funding for each year for figures available is as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	23.6
2005-06	37.4
2006-07	36.2
2007-08	36.9
2008-09	42.6

Every local education authority (LEA) has its own absenteeism rate, and the national health service supply chain, who runs the SFVS, applies this to the number of children eligible at schools within all LEAs and, where necessary, reduces the fruit delivery by this amount.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 765W, on swine flu, who will receive payment for giving housebound patients vaccinations; how much will be paid for each such vaccination; and from which budget. [294115]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 October 2009]:* General practitioner practices will receive £5.25 for each dose of swine flu vaccination administered to patients on their registered list who fall into one or more of the clinically at-risk priority groups announced by the Chief Medical Officer on 13 August 2009. This includes housebound patients who are on their list. The price per dose reflects the overall cost practices will incur in vaccinating their at-risk patients. The Department will provide additional funding to cover the cost of vaccinating patients in these priority groups.

Tuberculosis: Screening

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has conducted recent research on the effectiveness of the port of entry screening programme for tuberculosis; [294331]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of operating the port of entry screening programme for tuberculosis in the last five years; [294350]

(3) how many cases of *(a)* active and *(b)* latent tuberculosis have been detected at port of entry screening for tuberculosis in the last five years. [294351]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not conducted research on the effectiveness of the port of entry screening programme for tuberculosis (TB).

The Department has not made an estimate of the cost of operating the port of entry screening programme for TB in the last five years.

The data on the number of cases on active and latent TB detected at port of entry screening in the last five years are not collected centrally.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) receives data on cases classified as "possible active TB" from the Heathrow and Gatwick Health Control Units (HCUs) as reported on Port Form 103, which is how the medical inspector notifies the district to which the immigrant is going.

Data received by the HPA are shown in the following table:

	Number of PF 103 referrals	
Period	*Heathrow*[1]	*Gatwick*[2]
2004-05	n/a	15
2005-06	587	11
2006-07	590	16
2007-08	475	16
2008-09	421	1

Sources:

[1] Heathrow HCU annual report

[2] Gatwick HCU annual report

Wheelchairs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to respond to the consultation on wheelchair services undertaken as part of his Department's review of the care services efficiency delivery retail model. [294922]

Phil Hope: The Care Services Efficiency Delivery programme undertook consultation on wheelchair services as part of the process to help inform their recommendations for possible future models. There are no plans to provide a response to these consultations.

Discussions are ongoing within the Department on the future model for wheelchair services and stakeholder views are seen as key in the development of any new model of service provision. Officials will continue to involve all groups of wheelchair service users and their carers as required.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Famine

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the of the severity of the famine in Chin state in Burma; and what relief his Department is providing for those affected by the famine. [294537]

Mr. Michael Foster: Over the last two years, rat infestations have exacerbated chronic food shortages suffered by many people in Chin State. In September 2009, the World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that more than 19,000 households in 303 villages had been severely affected by the infestations. In response to the crisis, the Department for International Development (DFID) has approved funding of £880,000 towards emergency aid delivered through the United Nations Development Programme, WFP and their local partners. WFP estimates that by September, nearly 88,000 people had benefited from this aid. We are keeping the situation under close review.

We are also considering, in consultation with the United Nations and other donors, how best to address longer-term food security needs in Chin State and other parts of Burma.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 611W, on the Middle East: peace negotiations, whether his Department plans to second further staff to support the Quartet's Special Envoy from January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [293782]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development does not have plans to second further staff after January 2010.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the work of the Quartet Special Envoy, Tony Blair on the development of the Palestinian Territories; and if he will make a statement. [294336]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) continues to support the work of the Quartet Representative, Tony Blair. He is making a strong contribution to Palestinian state building and economic growth which has been commended by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee.

The Quartet Envoy's work to relieve movement and access restrictions by acting as a focal point for international lobbying on these issues has been particularly important. The recent decision by the Israeli Government to remove 35 obstacles in the West Bank has already cut some journey times by half; and the IMF has predicted that the West Bank may see economic growth of 7 per cent. in 2009 should these movement and access constraints continue to be lifted.

The Quartet Representative has also made significant progress in mobilising funding for development projects from Arab and Western donors and has played a leading role in the high level investment conferences that took place in London and Bethlehem in 2008.

News International and Monitor Group

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had (i) meetings with, (ii) communications from and (iii) other contacts with News International in the last five years; and what the subject matter of any contact was in each case; [295017]

(2) whether any *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had (i) meetings with, (ii) communications from and (iii) other contacts with the Monitor Group in the last five years; and what the subject matter of any contact was in each case. [295016]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The requested information could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Pacific Ocean Islands: Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department plans to send to victims of the recent tsunami and earthquakes in the South Pacific. [293829]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £100,000 to help address the immediate effects of the tsunami in Samoa. This was part of the co-ordinated international aid effort to support the Samoan Red Cross Society (SRCS).

The SRCS has opened five temporary shelter sites and is distributing clean water, first aid supplies, tarpaulins and other relief to those affected.

Tony Blair Faith Foundation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to the Tony Blair Faith Foundation; for which events run by the Foundation his Department has provided sponsorship; and if he will make a statement. [293764]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided any funding directly to the Tony Blair Faith Foundation (TBFF).

We have provided £30,000 to World Vision, who are co-sponsoring a seminar series with the TBFF focusing on the theme of faiths in development. Oxfam and Islamic Relief have also contributed funds to the series. These seminars are taking place at the Royal Society of Arts in London from 7 September to 12 November.

Yemen: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate has been made of the number of people displaced by fighting in northern Yemen; and what assistance the Government are providing to Yemen for humanitarian relief. [293786]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations (UN) estimates that as many as 150,000 people have now been displaced by the conflict in northern Yemen. Large numbers of these are women and children who are especially in need of protection and security.

On 9 October, the Department for International Development (DFID) announced £2 million for humanitarian aid to those who have been driven out of their homes by the ongoing fighting. This funding, delivered through the UN Flash Appeal, will be used to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services, food, health care, assistance to malnourished children, and shelter and relief items. It will also help to reduce immediate security and protection threats, and boost co-ordination within the humanitarian response effort.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which proposed academies *(a)* have been authorised to open and *(b)* have been the subject of applications to open since 2002; what the (i) location and (ii) proposed date of opening is of each such academy; who the sponsor is of each such academy; and whether each such acade[illegible]een designated as having a religious character. [295114]

Mr. Coaker: Information on Academies which have been authorised to open and have been the subject of applications to open since 2002 can be found on the Department's website at:

www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/academies/projects

Care Homes: Security

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from local authorities on the physical security of vulnerable people in local authority care. [284348]

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from local authorities on the physical security of vulnerable people in local authority care; and if he will make a statement. [284355]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 7 July 2009]:* All children's homes must comply with regulations and national minimum standards. These require that premises must be fit and suitable for achieving the home's statement of purpose. Every home must be secure from unauthorised access. This could include, for example, using electronic surveillance to monitor those who enter and leave the premises or having ground floor windows that can be opened only part way.

Where a local authority looks after a child, including those that have been trafficked, then they are responsible for identifying a placement that will be appropriate to meeting their needs, including their need to be kept safe from any likely harm.

On 1 July 2009, we published new "Statutory Guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care". This sets out the measures local authorities must take whenever a child that they look after goes missing from their care placement and includes specific information about managing support for especially vulnerable groups of looked after children—such as those asylum seeking children who may have been trafficked into the UK.

Children: Day Care

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery nurses per head of population there were in Northamptonshire in each of the last 10 years. [293488]

Dawn Primarolo: These data are not available. However, national data on the numbers and characteristics of staff in the child care and early years work force are collected through the Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey. The latest survey to be published in the series is for 2008 and was published at the end of September 2009. This can be found at the following website address:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14590&type=5&resultspage=1

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nursery places per head of population there were in Northamptonshire in each of the last 10 years. [293489]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers. This is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places. Table 1 shows the number of part-time equivalent places filled by three and four-year-olds in Northamptonshire local authority from 2000 to 2009.

Information on nursery school places per head of population has not been included. This is because data on places available are not collected; only data on places filled are available and as children can access their free entitlement across different local authority areas, part time equivalent places are not on a comparable basis with the local authority population figures. Population figures at this level of disaggregation are also not as reliable as at the national level.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2] filled by three[3] and four[3]-year-olds, local authority: Northamptonshire

Position in January each year	*Number of three and four-year-olds*
2000[4]	10,100
2001[4]	11,000
2002[5]	11,700
2003[6]	13,000
2004[6]	14,100
2005[6]	14,000
2006[6]	13,800
2007[6]	14,300
2008[6]	14,600
2009[6]	15,100

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Age of all children taken at 31 December in the previous calendar year.
[4] Headcount of children aged three and four from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of three and four-year-olds from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of three and four-year-olds from the Early Years Census and School Census.

Children: Social Services

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list serious case reviews which have been performed following the death of a child since 2005, citing only the month and year of the death, the local authority with jurisdiction and a reference code. [292358]

Dawn Primarolo: In April 2007 Ofsted assumed responsibility for the inspection of children's social care and local authorities became responsible for notifying Ofsted of serious incidents involving children. The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) developed a new database to hold information on such incidents, and data on the numbers of Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) following the notification of a death or serious injury of a child are available from 1 April 2007.

A previous parliamentary answer—23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 442W—indicated that, of all notifications received between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 of serious child care incidents, 89 SCRs had been initiated where a child died and abuse or neglect was known or suspected to be a factor.

Data currently held by the Department as at 8 October 2009 indicate that, of all notifications received between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009 of serious child care incidents, 75 SCRs had been initiated where a child died and abuse or neglect was known or suspected to be a factor.

A further three incidents are awaiting a decision. These figures are broken down by local authority in the following table along with the data from the previous parliamentary answer.

The decision about whether to undertake an SCR can change as more information about the case becomes available, for example, through inquests in to the cause of death. Therefore, the data given in this and the previous answer are likely to change slightly over time.

It is not possible to give information broken down by the date of death (by month) because this would significantly increase the risk that individual children and their families might be identified and could prejudice the interests and safety of children and their families.

Local authority	*Number of Serious Case Reviews commissioned as a result of a child death, notified between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008*[1]	*Number of Serious Case Reviews commissioned as a result of a child death, notified between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009*[2]
North East		
Darlington	0	0
Durham	0	2
Gateshead	0	0
Hartlepool	0	1
Middlesbrough	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	2	0
North Tyneside	0	1
Northumberland	0	1
Redcar and Cleveland	1	0
South Tyneside	3	0
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0
Sunderland	0	0

Local authority	Number of Serious Case Reviews commissioned as a result of a child death, notified between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008[1]	Number of Serious Case Reviews commissioned as a result of a child death, notified between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009[2]
North West		
Blackburn with Darwen	2	0
Blackpool	0	0
Bolton	0	0
Bury	0	0
Cheshire	0	2
Cumbria	0	0
Halton	1	1
Knowsley	1	0
Lancashire	1	3
Liverpool	2	1
Manchester	2	2
Oldham	0	0
Rochdale	0	0
Salford	0	1
Sefton	0	0
St Helens	1	0
Stockport	1	0
Tameside	0	0
Trafford	0	0
Warrington	0	0
Wigan	0	1
Wirral	0	0
Yorks and the Humber		
Barnsley	0	0
Bradford	0	0
Calderdale	2	0
Doncaster	3	2
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	1	0
Kirklees	1	2
Leeds	4	2
North East Lincolnshire	1	0
North Lincolnshire	0	0
North Yorkshire	1	0
Rotherham	0	1
Sheffield	3	0
Wakefield	1	1
York	0	0
East Midlands		
Derby	0	0
Derbyshire	1	0
Leicester	3	0
Leicestershire	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	1
Nottingham	2	2
Nottinghamshire	1	0
Rutland	0	0
West Midlands		
Birmingham	2	5
Coventry	2	1
Dudley	1	0
Herefordshire	1	1
Sandwell	2	1
Shropshire	1	1
Solihull	0	0
Staffordshire	1	0
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	0	0
Walsall	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0
Wolverhampton	1	1
Worcestershire	2	2
East of England		
Bedfordshire	0	0
Cambridgeshire	2	1
Essex	1	0
Hertfordshire	0	3
Luton	1	0
Norfolk	2	0
Peterborough	0	1
Southend-on-Sea	0	0
Suffolk	2	0
Thurrock	1	0
London		
Inner London		
Camden	0	0
City of London	0	0
Hackney	0	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	0
Haringey	1	0
Islington	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0
Lambeth	0	0
Lewisham	0	1
Newham	0	2
Southwark	2	0
Tower Hamlets	1	0
Wandsworth	0	0
Westminster	0	1
Outer London		
Barking and Dagenham	1	0
Barnet	1	1
Bexley	0	2
Brent	0	0
Bromley	0	1
Croydon	2	0
Ealing	0	0
Enfield	0	1
Greenwich	0	1
Harrow	0	0
Havering	0	1
Hillingdon	0	0
Hounslow	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	0	0

Local authority	*Number of Serious Case Reviews commissioned as a result of a child death, notified between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008*[1]	*Number of Serious Case Reviews commissioned as a result of a child death, notified between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009*[2]
Merton	0	0
Redbridge	1	1
Richmond upon Thames	0	0
Sutton	0	1
Waltham Forest	1	0
South East		
Bracknell Forest	0	0
Brighton and Hove	0	0
Buckinghamshire	1	2
East Sussex	0	1
Hampshire	0	1
Isle of Wight	1	0
Kent	2	2
Medway	0	1
Milton Keynes	1	0
Oxfordshire	0	1
Portsmouth	1	0
Reading	0	1
Slough	0	1
Southampton	1	0
Surrey	1	0
West Berkshire	1	0
West Sussex	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0
Wokingham	0	0
South West		
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0
Bournemouth	0	0
Bristol, City of	1	0
Cornwall	1	1
Devon	2	0
Dorset	0	1
Gloucestershire	1	2
Isles of Scilly	0	0
North Somerset	0	1
Plymouth	0	0
Poole	0	1
Somerset	1	0
South Gloucestershire	0	0
Swindon	0	0
Torbay	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0
	89	75

[1] Information from previous parliamentary answer (Official Report 23 February 2009, column 442W

[2] There are three cases which await a decision)

Education Maintenance Allowance: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on education maintenance allowance bonuses in 2008-09; and how much he expects his Department to spend in each of the next three years. [293406]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2008-09 the total spent on all types of EMA bonus in England was £80,505,540.

The Learning and Skills Council's Annual Statement of Priorities, to be published later in the autumn, will set out total planned future expenditure for EMA and other learner support programmes.

Education: Young People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the 14-19 engagement programme in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [293404]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the 2009/10 academic year, funds totalling £19,334,000 have been allocated to 142 local authorities to pilot the Key Stage 4 Engagement programme. Overall, this pilot programme will make provision for almost 28,000 learners who are, or at risk of becoming, disengaged from learning and who are not achieving as well as they should be.

Office of the Schools Adjudicator

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the operational cost of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator was in each financial year since its inception; and what it has been in 2009-10 to date; [295071]

(2) how many staff are employed in the Office of the Schools Adjudicator; [295072]

(3) how many objections to school closures have been referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator in each year since the Office was established; and how many of these were upheld; [295073]

(4) how many objections to school closures are before the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. [295074]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Office of the Schools Adjudicator's Annual report is expected from the Chief Schools Adjudicator on 2 November 2009. This will be a comprehensive report which will answer many of the questions asked which relate to this year.

The operational cost of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Operational cost (£)*
1999/2000	849,000
2000/01	797,000
2001/02	569,000
2002/03	432,000
2003/04	637,000
2004/05	689,00
2005/06	517,000
2006/07	605,000
2007/08	655,000
2008/09	756,000

This financial year (2009/10), the operational costs of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator has so far amounted to £295,000.

There are currently nine Adjudicators (including the Chief Schools Adjudicator), and seven full-time equivalent administrative staff working within the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

Data on objections made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator against a school closure is only available from 2008/09. In that year, four objections were referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, none were upheld. No referrals have been made in the current year.

There are no objections to school closures currently before the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

The Office of the Schools Adjudicator is currently dealing with three statutory proposal cases involving the closing of schools.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last met the Schools Adjudicator to discuss the operation of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator; and if he will make a statement. [295075]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Chief Schools Adjudicator met the Secretary of State on his appointment to the post at the start of this year. Since then, the Chief Adjudicator has met with the Minister responsible for School Admissions on a bi-monthly basis.

The Chief Schools Adjudicator provides an Annual Report to the Secretary of State.

Parents: Advisory Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many calls there have been to the Parent Know How helpline in each month since it was established; what the cost of the helpline has been; and if he will make a statement. [293401]

Dawn Primarolo: Under our Parent Know How programme we are funding seven third sector organisations to provide helpline support for parents in England. There is not a separate single Parent Know How helpline. The funding for these helplines, for a three-year period, commenced on 1 April 2008. Management data, including the number of recorded calls made to the helplines, were collected on a quarterly basis in the first year (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009). In the current year, we are now collecting this data on a monthly basis. The following table shows a breakdown of the number of recorded calls made to each helpline between 1 April 2008 and 30 September 2009.

2008-09: Recorded calls made

				Helpline			
	Advisory Centre for Education	*Contact a Family*	*Children's Legal Centre*	*Family Rights Group*	*Gingerbread*	*Parentline Plus*	*Young Minds*
Q1	33,395	4,361	4,978	6,498	2,544	47,033	2,502
Q2	10,669	6,598	6,752	5,560	2,923	40,140	2,018
Q3	15,249	4,575	7,070	4,211	2,434	39,266	2,437
Q4	21,298	5,815	9,008	6,957	3,095	39,430	2,868
Total	80,611	21,349	27,808	23,226	10,996	165,869	9,825
Overall total				339,684			

2009-10: Recorded calls made to 30 September

				Helpline			
	Advisory Centre for Education	*Contact a Family*	*Children's Legal Centre*	*Family Rights Group*	*Gingerbread*	*Parentline Plus*	*Young Minds*
April	7,476	1,427	2,043	1,861	847	12,322	599
May	7,637	1,329	1,819	2,087	724	13,511	678
June	6,359	1,336	1,938	2,219	363	11,970	778
July	4,202	1,165	2,420	1,857	920	13,169	904
August	1,023	1,361	1,188	1,145	857	11,420	526
September	3,578	1,428	2,066	1,562	1,019	12,768	914
Total	30,275	8,046	11,474	10,731	4,730	75,160	4,399
Overall total				144,815			

The third sector organisations each receive grant funding. The total grant funding claimed between 1 April 2008 and 30 September 2009 was £5,821,814.

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools built in each local education authority area in each of the last five years do not have a sprinkler system. [293689]

Mr. Coaker: We have the information requested for secondary schools procured within the Building Schools for the Future and Academies Programmes. We have placed a list of these new secondary schools in the House Libraries. The list will include the date the schools were completed and the local authority where they are situated. However, we do not hold such information for primary schools.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Services Forum Task Group

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 943W, on the Public Services Forum Task Group, whether minutes are kept of the meetings of the Public Services Forum Task Group. [290170]

Tessa Jowell: The Public Services Forum Task Group came to an end in July 2008 when the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice was published. Minutes were kept of the Task Group's meetings.

TREASURY

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Christmas functions arranged by his Department and its agencies *(a)* he, *(b)* officials of his Department and *(c)* officials of its agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2008; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [295422]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not available.

Corporation Tax

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the headline rate of corporation tax. [294585]

Mr. Timms: The Government are committed to ensuring that the UK continues to have one of the most competitive corporate tax regimes in the world. The UK continues to have the lowest main rate of corporation tax in the G7.

Treasury Ministers and officials regularly receive representations on tax issues, including on the rate of corporation tax, from a variety of sources as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors the Valuation Office Agency requires a bathroom in a dwelling to have to meet the bathroom classification under the council tax dwellinghouse coding system; and what classification is applied to a room with a toilet and sink only. [294515]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the Valuation Office Agency's Property Details Guide, which is available on its website at

www.voa.gov.uk

Crown Estates: Parliamentary Questions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 178W, on trade unions, on what matters relating to the Crown Estate he takes responsibility for answering Parliamentary Questions. [294436]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Crown Estate's role is defined by statute through The Crown Estate Act 1961. Treasury Ministers answer parliamentary questions on Crown Estate issues covering England, Wales and Northern Ireland, on the advice of the Crown Estate Office.

The Secretary of State for Scotland handles matters dealing with The Crown Estate in Scotland.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a conservatory with a dwellinghouse coded D has a greater value weighting than a conservatory with a dwellinghouse codes under the Valuation Office Agency's automated valuation model. [294529]

Ian Pearson: A conservatory may add to value., depending on its size and quality.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has received a request to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry; [293562]

(2) how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have received requests to give evidence to the Chilcot Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [293565]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by the Prime Minister on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1210W.

Local Government: Assets

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 23-8WS, on sale of Government assets, whether any receipts of proposed sales of local authority assets will accrue to the Exchequer. [293673]

Mr. Byrne: Excepting certain receipts from the sale of housing land and dwellings that are required to be pooled centrally or surrendered, English local authorities are free to use capital receipts from asset sales to support capital investment, repay debt, invest to earn interest or any combination of these. The decision rests with the local authority concerned.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 848W, on council tax: valuation, what *(a)* property attributes and *(b)* geo-spatial factors were taken into account when reviewing the sub-location codes for the revaluation of non-domestic rates. [294442]

Ian Pearson: Sub-locations are codes used by the VOA to group properties with similar characteristics for non-domestic rating purposes. Regard is had to factual characteristics such as property type, quality and location or a combination. No maps are maintained.

Operational Efficiency Programme

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to report on the conclusions of Sir Gerry Grimstone's review of the operational efficiency of *(a)* the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, *(b)* the Royal Mint and *(c)* the Land Registry. [293955]

Mr. Byrne: The "Operational Efficiency Programme: final report", published in April 2009 stated that there would be an update on the Gerry Grimstone's strand of the Operational Efficiency Programme at the 2009 pre-Budget report.

Private Finance Initiative: Costs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the costs associated with private finance initiatives. [294914]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury provides a wide range of guidance and support to Departments and procuring authorities on managing the cost of private finance initiatives throughout the procurement cycle. This material is available on the Department's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_guidance_index.htm

Tax Allowances: Fuel Oil

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will consider introducing tax exemption for mineralogical processes which use recovered fuel oil; [294959]

(2) what the difference is in the tax treatment on the use of recovered fuel oil in the *(a)* steel, *(b)* electricity and *(c)* lime manufacturing industries; and if he will make a statement. [294960]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government keep all taxes under review. Any changes to tax policy are announced by the Chancellor as part of his Budget judgment in the normal Budget and pre-Budget report process.

Recovered fuel oil used in blast furnaces is not subject to fuel duty as the oil is being used as a chemical reductant rather than as a fuel. Fuels used to generate electricity are exempt from duty to avoid double taxation since electricity is subject to climate change levy. Recovered fuel oil used in the lime manufacturing industry is subject to duty at the same rate as fuel oil, the fuel for which it most commonly substitutes. This rate is 10.37p per litre.

Taxation: Betting

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to change tax arrangements for fixed odds betting terminals. [294865]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are currently consulting on the taxation of gaming machines, including the taxation of fixed odds betting terminals. The consultation discusses whether the current system of amusement machine licence duty (AMLD) and VAT should be replaced with a gross profits tax (GPT).

The consultation ends on 23 October 2009, and can be found on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_gaming_machines_taxation.htm

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of seaside towns on changes to the taxation of gaming machines; [295236]

(2) what recent representations he has received from residents of *(a)* seaside and *(b)* coastal district towns on changes to taxation on gaming machines. [295237]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Once the consultation period has ended, the Government expect to publish a summary of responses received.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* staff and *(b)* other costs arising from his Department's consultation on taxation of gaming machines. [295238]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A consultation stage impact assessment was published alongside the consultation on the taxation of gaming machines. This included estimates of the change in administrative burdens on businesses resulting from a move to a gross profits tax.

A final stage impact assessment will be published after the consultation has been completed, which will also include the costs to HMRC of enforcement relating to a gross profits tax regime.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will assess the merits of raising the occupancy threshold for eligibility under the furnished holiday letting rules instead of abolishing those rules; [294433]

(2) if he will assess the merits of deferring the proposed abolition of the furnished holiday letting rules until April 2011 to enable further consultation; and if he will make a statement. [294434]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Angus (Mr. Weir) on 19 October, *Official Report*, column 1288W.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2287-88W, on the Valuation Office Agency, what action was taken against each individual reported to have been convicted. [294449]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency received fewer than five reports of convictions and related offences from the Cabinet Office and the action taken against each individual was in accordance with the Valuation Office Agency's Conduct Policy depending on the severity of the offence. To provide further detail on such a small number of individuals might allow them to be identified and thus breach data protection rules.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* speeches, *(b)* presentations delivered and *(c)* handouts issued by the representative of the Valuation Office Agency at the Global Property Tax Management Conference in Berlin on 22 September 2008. [294530]

Ian Pearson: A copy of the presentations have been placed in the Library of the House.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1513W, on the Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble, how much money was paid by his Department to Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies in each of the last six years. [294369]

Ian Pearson: The following amounts have been paid on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency to Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies in each of the last six years:

	Total (£)
2003-04	589,195.00
2004-05	1,253,100.08
2005-06	1,334,182.61
2006-07	481,646.51
2007-08	54,806.57
2008-09	0.00

These figures exclude non-recoverable VAT.

Valuation Office: Digital Technology

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has access to digital mapping facilities under the Pan-Government Agreement. [294519]

Ian Pearson: Yes.

Valuation Office: Information and Communications Technology

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ludlow, of 14 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2135W, on the Valuation Office: ICT, what the breakdown by category of expenditure was of the £6.7 million of expenditure on the automated valuation model since September 2005; and which Minister authorised that expenditure. [294445]

Ian Pearson: The breakdown of the £6.7 million expenditure is as follows:

Item	*£ (excluding VAT)*
IT development and consultancy	4,300,000
IT support costs	2,400,000
Total	6,700,000

This expenditure was originally approved by the former Minister for Local Government in 2005.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the duration of the contract between the Valuation Office Agency and HM Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.co.uk plc is; what the latest date is by which the Agency may exercise its right to extend the contract; and whether the contract will roll on if each party agrees. [294318]

Ian Pearson: An agreement to extend the contract extension was signed on 20 November 2008. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 905W.

The contract will not roll on.

Valuation Office: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Ludlow of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2288W, on the Valuation Office Agency: publications, for what reasons the Agency did not meet its minimum target standards in each of the six process areas. [294448]

Ian Pearson: The external consultants who carried out the high level assessment advised that improvements were necessary in the six process areas to achieve an increasing profile against the target standards.

Publication of more detail in advance of those improvements being completed would represent an unjustified escalation of risk.

Valuation Office: Training

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1513W, on the Valuation Office, and of 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1514W, on the Valuation Office: training, if he will place in the Library an electronic copy of each of the 25 other e-learning programmes. [294368]

Ian Pearson: There are now 30 e-learning programmes available to all Valuation Office Agency staff. 24 of these programmes have been developed in-house (as listed). One of the programmes has already been placed in the Library and copies of the remaining 23 programmes will be deposited in CD Rom format as soon as it is possible to create the discs.

1. Address Application
2. Enquiry Handling and Appeals Direct
3. Basic English Skills Grammar and Punctuation
4. Code of Measuring Practice
5. Council Tax
6. Data Security
7. Digital Dictation
8. Dwelling-house Coding (a copy of this has already been deposited in the Library)
9. Enterprise Resource Planning
10. Freedom of Information including Data Protection and Other Information Law
11. Health and Safety Site Inspections
12. Introduction to the VOA Internet
13. Omnidox
14. Performance Management
15. Rating Revaluation 2005 Maintenance and Defence
16. RSA Pattern Valuation Process 2005 Rating List
17. Strategic Asset Management
18. The Development Process including Assessment Centres
19. The VOA Welcome Programme
20. Transfer of TRS Functions to the VOA
21. Vacancy Filling

22. Reval 2010 Summary Valuation Enquiry Handling

23. Change Management

24. Fraud Awareness Training Package.

The following five programmes are commercial learning products that have been developed by external companies and are not owned by the Valuation Office Agency Copies of these programmes will not be included in the deposit to the Library of the House.

25. Euclidian

26. Fire Awareness in the Workplace

27. MS Office e-learning

28. Ten Thumbs Typing

29. NBS Learning Channels

30. Equality and Diversity In Practice.

VAT

Peter Luff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 46-47WS, on value added tax, whether he still plans to raise the rate of value added tax to 17.5 per cent. on 1 January 2010. [293960]

Mr. Timms: As originally announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report and confirmed in Budget 2009 and the Finance Act 2009, the standard rate of VAT will revert to 17.5 per cent. from midnight on 31 December 2009.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 12 October 2009

TREASURY

Tax Credit Office: Correspondence

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average the Tax Credit Office took to respond to written queries in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [282923]

[Official Report, 29 June 2009, Vol. 495, c. 24W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Timms:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) on 29 June 2009. The full answer given was as follows:

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long on average the Tax Credit Office took to respond to written queries in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [282923]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Timms: The information is not available in the format requested.

For information about the time taken to provide a substantive response to tax credits complaints in 2008-09 I refer the hon. Member to the following table:

Response times to written complaints on tax credits by the Tax Credit Office in 2008-09

Cleared within	*Percentage clearance*	*Cumulative percentage*
Less than 1 week	3	3
1 to 2 weeks	14	16
2 to 3 weeks	18	34
3 to 4 weeks	14	48
4 to 5 weeks	11	59
Over 5 weeks	41	100

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure his Department has incurred in *(a)* Helmand Province and *(b)* elsewhere in Afghanistan in 2009-10 to date. [286922]

[Official Report, 15 July 2009, Vol. 496, c. 508W.]

Letter of correction from Michael Foster:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East (Mr. Ellwood) on 15 July 2009. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The budget for Helmand province in 2009-10 is £18 million and the rest of Afghanistan is £109.5 million. We anticipate spending our full combined budget of £127.5 million by the end of 2009-10.

The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes expenditure in its annual report and the Statistics in International Development publication. These are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

The approved aid framework for DFID Afghanistan in 2009-10 is recorded in the 2009 annual report is £123.5 million. As noted in the annual report, this is only an indicative planning figure and we anticipate spending £127.5 million in 2009-10.

The figure in the annual report creates the potential for confusion and so we would like to amend the previous answer and replace it with the following:

Mr. Michael Foster: The current indicative budget for Helmand province in 2009-10 is £18 million and the rest of Afghanistan is £109.5 million. We anticipate spending a total of £127.5 million by the end of 2009-10.

The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes previous and planned expenditure in its annual report and the Statistics in International Development publication. These are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on aid to Afghanistan in 2008-09; and what proportion of such aid was delivered directly in Helmand province. [289143]

[Official Report, 21 July 2009, Vol. 496, c. 1241W.]

Letter of correction from Michael Foster:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bournemouth, East (Mr. Ellwood) on 21 July 2009. The full answer given was as follows:

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £143 million of support to Afghanistan in 2008-09 through its bilateral programme. Of this, we spent £21.9 million on growth, livelihoods and governance programmes directly in Helmand province.

DFID publishes expenditure in its Annual Report and the Statistics in International Development publication. These are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

We stated that the amount of aid delivered directly in Helmand Province in 2008-09 was £21.9 million pounds. The quoted figure includes a £1.3 million project which was accidentally counted twice. The amount of aid delivered directly in Helmand Province in 2008-09 was therefore £20.6 million.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £143 million of support to Afghanistan in 2008-09 through its bilateral programme. Of this, we spent £20.6 million on growth, livelihoods and governance programmes directly in Helmand province.

DFID publishes previous and planned expenditure in its Annual Report and the Statistics in International Development publication. These are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 22 October 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* small and *(b)* large properties in each region will be subject to (i) an increase and (ii) a decrease in business rates of (A) zero, (B) one to five, (C) six to 10, (D) 11 to 15, (E) 16 to 20, (F) 21 to 30, (G) 31 to 40, (H) 41 to 50, (I) 51 to 100, (J) 101 to 200 and (K) over 200 per cent. before the application of transitional relief in 2010-11. [289906]

[Official Report, 12 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 338-40W.]

Letter of correction from Rosie Winterton:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 12 October 2009. In the table entitled "Large Properties" the figures for London were misplaced.

The correct answer is as follows:

Large properties

	North East	*North West*	*North Yorkshire and the Humber West*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*
Less than -50%	[1]—	100	[1]—	[1]—	100	100	100	100	[1]—
Between -50% (including) and -40% (excluding)	100	200	100	200	200	200	200	300	100
Between -40% (incl.) and -30% (excl.)	100	600	300	1,100	500	800	700	1,100	400
Between -30% (incl.) and -20% (excl.)	600	2,200	1,200	4,600	3,100	3,200	2,400	7,100	1,400
Between -20% (incl.) and -15% (excl.)	2,800	9,500	7,500	9,700	9,400	6,300	5,900	15,500	3,200
Between -15% (incl.) and -10% (excl.)	2,500	7,700	5,300	3,500	8,300	6,600	5,800	10,000	3,700
Between -10% (incl.) and -5% (excl.)	2,500	8,500	5,500	2,600	6,400	6,900	8,100	9,600	4,600
Between -5% (incl.) and -0% (excl.)	2,100	6,900	4,500	2,300	4,900	6,000	9,200	7,400	5,100
No change (0%)[2]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Between 0% (excl.) and 5% (incl.)	1,700	5,700	4,000	1,900	3,300	4,800	9,300	5,800	5,300
Between 5% (excl.) and 10% (incl.)	1,100	3,800	3,000	1,300	2,200	3,700	7,000	4,600	4,300
Between 10% (excl.) and 15% (incl.)	900	2,800	2,200	900	1,400	2,800	5,300	3,400	3,600
Between 15% (excl.) and 20% (incl.)	600	2,000	1,700	600	1,000	2,000	4,300	2,600	2,700
Between 20% (excl.) and 30% (incl.)	900	2,700	2,100	700	1,300	2,500	6,900	3,200	3,500
Between 30% (excl.) and 40% (incl.)	400	1,500	1,000	400	600	1,500	5,200	1,900	1,800
Between 40% (excl.) and 50% (incl.)	200	800	600	300	400	800	4,000	1,100	1,200
Between 50% (excl.) and 100% (incl.)	400	1,400	900	600	600	1,400	10,100	2,100	1,800
Between 100% (excl.) and 200% (incl.)	200	500	300	300	300	400	1,100	600	500
More than 200% (excl.)	100	100	100	100	100	100	200	200	200

[1] Negligible (less than 50).

[2] 344 properties see no change in their business rates bill. All these properties have zero Rateable Value before and after the revaluation.

Note:

Figures rounded to the nearest hundred.

HEALTH

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on first class rail travel for officials in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [293333]

[Official Report, 19 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 1261W.]

Letter of correction from Phil Hope:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 12 October 2009. Unfortunately the final figure for 2008-09 was incorrect.

The correct answer should have been:

Phil Hope: The Department has spent the following on first-class travel.

	£
2006-07	4,640,501.02
2007-08	4,977,335.59
2008-09	4,865,405.72

It should be noted that the above figures represent travel booked through the central booking system which constitutes the vast majority of how travel is booked and paid for.